



Asia Pacific Region Quick Facts

- The speed and scope of urbanisation in Asia and the Pacific is unprecedented. Between 1980 and 2010, the region's cities grew by around one billion people. United Nations projections show they will add another one billion by 2040.
- By 2018 half of the Asia and Pacific population will be living in the region's towns and cities. By 2050, urban areas will account for nearly two out of three people.
- The United Nations projects that, by 2050, the number of people living in cities in China and India alone will grow by 696 million (India 404 million; China 292 million).
- Today, the Asia-Pacific region is home to 17 megacities, three of them the world's largest - Tokyo, Delhi and Shanghai. It is projected that, by 2030, the region will have no less than 22 megacities
- The rise of the Asian and Pacific middle classes is not an all-inclusive process. Those defined as 'middle class' in the region's cities range in income from USD 2 to USD 20 a day. The region remains characterised by high levels of inequality and poverty.
- Less than 75 percent of the urban population in many Asian and Pacific countries has access to improved sanitation.
- Only 14 percent of the urban population live in megacities and 47 percent of the regional population live in cities and towns classified below 500,000 people.
- Female labour force participation rates in the region are significantly lower than those of males Female labour participation is the highest in East Asia, although it still lags behind male participation
- Despite rapid economic growth, massive employment generation and impressive gains in poverty reduction, income poverty is still widespread in the region, particularly in rural areas
- The cities and towns of the Asia and Pacific region are very diverse. Car ownership rates, range from fewer than 50 to more than 700 cars per 1,000 people.
- In 2008, the combined Asia-Pacific middle classes in developing Asia had an aggregate annual income (or expenditure) of USD 3,285 billion, up from USD 721 billion in 1990
- It is estimated that the region's middle class will grow to approximately 3.2 billion people by 2030 or two-thirds of the world's total number of middle class persons.
- Urban fertility rates are falling throughout much of Asia and the Pacific and this trend is now also spreading to rural areas. In large cities, total fertility rates are particularly low, even compared to already low national fertility rates
- Officially, urban (expenditure or income) poverty incidence has fallen to six or seven percent of the population. However, these figures do not consider adequately multidimensional poverty, such as lack of access to social security, to basic services (electricity, water, sewer connection and waste disposal services), housing quality and space, access to social infrastructure (schools and health care), physical safety and social inclusion.
- In many of the region's countries, over 90 percent of the urban population had access to improved sources of drinking water in 2011, whether as in-house connections, nearby public standpipes or boreholes, protected dug wells and springs or through rainwater harvesting.



- Urban areas in Asia and the Pacific, according to the World Bank, generate about 700,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste or approximately 2.7 million cubic metres, per day. By 2025, this figure will increase to 1.8 million tonnes or 5.2 million cubic metres daily
- Asia and the Pacific is the region most affected by natural disasters. In 2011, the Asia and Pacific region accounted for 212 million victims of various natural disasters, 86.4 percent of the number reported worldwide. It also suffered the most physical damage: USD 296.6 billion or 80.7 percent of worldwide losses

Source: The State of Asian and Pacific Cities 2015

National Reports Status for the Asia Pacific Region

Final Submission Received (4): Korea, Japan, Pakistan, Turkey

Draft Reports / Reports in Progress (6): Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Pacific Region, Philippines



Korea

Summary:

Urbanization in Korea during the last 20 years has been characterized by large influx of people to the cities from the countryside, rapid economic development and pressure on natural resources, water and energy. To meet the needs of the rising number of urban residents while also encouraging sustainable growth patterns, the government has implemented a wide range of policies and programs including a successful public transport system, the movement of central administrative agencies to local areas, upgrading of low-income housing and an adjusted financial transfer system from the central government to local governments.

Korea has faced a number of challenges in the last 20 years, including the rise of man-made disasters, an increasing aging society, high levels of youth unemployment and increasing material and energy consumption. In order to meet their sustainable urban development goals in the next 20 years, Korea plans to focus on improving employment opportunities (particularly for young people and in new fields), giving a space for minority voices in the urban planning process, encouraging citizen participation in local governments, developing rural areas by decreasing the economic and resource availability gap between rural and urban areas, making strong efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change in Korean cities and developing policies that address the unique needs of the youth and aging populations.

Urban Solutions for a New Urban Agenda:

- Carry out urban regeneration policies that focus on revitalizing existing downtown areas, improving the quality of housing and enhancing the quality and vitality of underdeveloped rural human settlements
- Expand job opportunities for the aged through better working conditions, more education programs for the elderly and more opportunities for social contribution.
- Designate more cities which have policies that are specifically designed to welcome women into urban spaces, include more women in urban planning, reduce discrimination and reflect women's views in the planning, development, and operation of human settlements.
- Develop plans and techniques for adaptation to climate change, develop plans and techniques for converging and combining information technology and environment technology in urban spaces, develop a carbon reduction and green city planning model and apply the Low Impact Development techniques in urban design and technology development
- Enhance the convenience, comfort, and stability of using eco-friendly transportation by building an urban transportation convergence system based on advanced IT and stimulating the connection system between the total control system and smart phones of transportation users.



- Build the foundation for innovative urban governance to ensure more systematic, effective, and broad citizen participation in the decision making and execution process of urban policies. Increase the level of citizen participation in setting policy goals, urban planning, installing infrastructure facilities, supplying public services and developing investment priorities.
- Decrease burdens on water production and the environment by reducing water usage, improving water consumption habits and expanding the reuse of water.
- Increase transparency in the following areas: local finance notifications, cost information of projects, the entire process of bidding and contracting, the calculations of integrated financial statistics of stakeholders including local government, local education, and local public organizations.





Japan

Summary:

Since Habitat II in 1976, Japan has experienced progressive urbanization, over-population and depopulation, environmental pollution and deterioration in living conditions, sharp rises and falls in land prices, and severe natural disasters (including the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011). Unlike many other countries in Asia and the Pacific that are still experiencing rapid growth, Japan experienced its demographic peak in 2008. This has affected regional areas as well the cost value of providing basic services to smaller populations. In order to develop more sustainable cities, Japan has made great efforts in the areas of developing a national spatial development policy, expanding regional transport, investing in land management and GIS/cadastral information systems, focusing on environmentally conscious urban development and promoting sustainable waste management.

Currently, the two biggest challenges that Japan faces are 1) how to respond to the rapidly shrinking and aging population and 2) how to prepare well for major natural disasters. These are issues that Japan is committed to addressing through policies and programs and have emphasized in the New Urban Agenda.

Urban Solutions for a New Urban Agenda:

- Strive to expand the healthy life span of elderly people by encouraging them to work in various regions by making effective use of the rich knowledge, experience, and skills and to live in countryside while they are in good health.
- Build a society that enables young people to stay and work in the regions, and help generate flows of people coming from metropolitan areas to rural areas
- Improve the conditions for both men and women to share the experience of working and raising children together, either in large cities or regions, so as to increase female participation in society
- Consolidate urban functions by building a consensus among the communities concerned so that administrative services can be streamlined and economic activities stimulated.
- Encourage interaction and encounters between people, goods, and information to stimulate innovation and create new values.
- Promote locating workplaces and houses closely, resolve traffic congestion, reduce disaster risks, improve urban environments and renovate large cities by means of utilizing vacant houses and
- Apply Japan's experience to help countries in Asia solve urbanization challenges, encourage private-sector businesses based in Japan to work together with the public sector to promote sustainable contribution to the international community.
- Based on the Fundamental Plan for National Resilience, formulated in June 2014 as the guidelines of the other relevant government plans, the government will work as a single organization in a systematic manner to make the whole country more resilient,



- Evaluate and share disaster risks, develop intensive policy programs for disaster prevention and reduction
- Develop sensors, robots, and other technologies applicable to medical, nursing, and life care services which can be used practically to facilitate self-reliance and social participation of elderly people and improve their quality of life as well as be used for practical purpose in a variety of fields.
- Make public the diverse and huge amount of data held by the national and local governments to allow users to edit or process them freely, including for commercial purposes.
- Promote the development of local industries, scientific expertise, technologies, and equipment
- Create incentives for women to enter the agricultural, forestry, and fishery industries
- Develop policy measures will be to dramatically increase the number of inbound tourists
- Strengthen the technical foundation for the maintenance and replacement of the infrastructure
- Export water-related infrastructure systems developed in the tough natural and social conditions
- Make housing and buildings more energy efficient by enhancing the regulations, raising awareness of and promoting the certification system based on the Act on the Rational Use of Energy (Energy Saving Act), and providing incentives for energy saving behaviors.





Pakistan

Summary:

Pakistan is the most urbanized nation in South Asia, its urban population has risen from 32.5% in 1998 to 40% in 2014. Following Habitat II, Pakistan started a comprehensive decentralization program to improve urban governance which included local government elections, a Constitutional amendment in 2010 which gave increased responsibility to provinces and required the establishment of a local government system. One important policy to this end has been the Local Government Ordinance of 2001 (which has been followed by a number of provincial acts), which was a major attempt at decentralization, making local governments more representative and giving local governments more financial autonomy.

Some of the major urban challenges that Pakistan faces include a large increase in urban-rural migration, a decline in fertility and mortality, the challenges of unemployment and education for the 70% of the population under 30, a growing aging population, food deficiency, horizontal growth in large and intermediate cities, out of date land use regulations and building codes, lack of transport infrastructure, serious air pollution, challenges with decentralization, safety and security issues, vulnerability to disasters and more.

As part of the New Urban Agenda, Pakistan has proposed the Pakistan Vision 2025 which has implications for managing urbanization as well as changing urban demography. The Vision is multifaceted, but focuses on large infrastructure investments, social service provision and a redistribution of growth.

Urban Solutions for a New Urban Agenda:

- Implement Pakistan Vision 2025, a perspective plan, which has implications for managing urbanization as well as changing urban demography. The vision envisages a people-centered and inclusive approach to development whereby, the main driver of growth will be anchored in better functioning urban clusters, focus on the creation of jobs/employment, bolstered by better skilled and more employable youth, led by the private sector and based on productivity improvement and export enhancement.
- Develop Medium and secondary towns, recognizing that towns and cities are made up of interconnected systems, with the aim of inclusive and holistic urban development.
- Provide opportunities for youth through small business loans, vocational training, reimbursement of student fees, and invest in pension systems for elderly as important mechanisms to ensure economic independence and reduce poverty.
- Streamline the planning application process to reinforce transparency and reduce regulatory burden on development of industry and other economic activities
- Develop environment of persistent government interventions, social activism and proactive legislation for gender equality. Develop practical operational programs for



women to play an active role in the development of towns and cities for greater social and economic benefits.

- Digitize land records, spatial plans and revenue maps to improve land management.
- Improve Traffic Management through a mass transit system, ring roads, signal free roads, bikeways, and pedestrian walkways.
- Empower local governments by ensuring that newly elected local councils have sufficient resources and authority to address the development challenges in local communities.
- Strengthen laws to provide basic housing facilities, discourage the withholding of developed vacant land and speculation on land prices using mechanisms such as a land bank.
- Develop new modes of housing finance such as utilization of pension, benevolent and insurance fund to increase the flow of funds into housing sector.





Turkey

Summary:

Turkey has a population of 76.7 million and an area of 780.000 sq km. Following the 1950s Turkey experienced a rapid population increase in parallel with migration from rural areas to urban areas, leading to a rise in the share of the urban population from 25% in 1950 to 77% in 2012. Such rapid urbanization has shaped economy, social structure and natural environment of the cities.

Following the Istanbul Declaration of 1996, the government undertook to mitigate regional imbalances and supported the development of medium-scale cities. A series of institutional and legal arrangements were carried out, among them “City Councils” empowering local administrations and rendering public services more efficient. Efforts have been undertaken to successfully increase the rate of provision of domestic water services to 99.8% of urban population, and sewerage service to 92% in 2013. The rate of urban population receiving waste water treatment service rose to 77% from 13% 20 years ago. Illegal and squatter housing has been mainly overcome with the rate declining to 0.94% in 2013 down from 2.39% seven years earlier.

Urban Solutions for a New Urban Agenda:

- Prioritize a compact urban form through coordination of central and local administrations, solving how mixed-use zones shall be located in the city, creating proper and livable housing sites, taking measures to ensure that city dwellers make equal and fair use of urban services
- Strengthen the principle of subsidiarity, by perform planning and implementation through participatory decision-making processes
- Enhance technical, administrative and financial capacities of the local administrations, broaden their basis for financial income, and produce optimal spatial plans through participation of local actors in decision-making mechanisms
- Enhance urban life quality, e.g. by underlining the right to adequate housing for city dwellers, encouraging urban agriculture, enhance planning efficacy
- Climate change as the largest challenge with ensuing disasters, migration movements, dents to the economic development, but further work is also needed to tackle its causes, e.g. traffic and to achieve a transition to green cities; simultaneously develop smart solutions and prepare for the information society
- Ease access to housing and increase affordability through the introduction of new financing mechanisms, lower inflation and expanded construction efforts