



OECD GREEN CITIES PROGRAMME

URBAN GREEN GROWTH IN DYNAMIC ASIA PROJECT

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Launched in 2010, the **OECD Green Cities Programme** aims to assess the impact of urban sustainability and green growth policies on urban and national performance across a range of geographic, economic and national regulatory contexts, through case studies in key OECD and non-OECD cities. Four city-level studies were carried out in 2011 and 2012: Stockholm (Sweden), Kitakyushu (Japan), Chicago (United States) and Paris/Ile-de-France (France). These publications are part of the OECD Green Growth Studies series and feed into the synthesis report **Green Growth in Cities**, published in May 2013.

The development of Asian cities is characterised by rapid and continuous urbanisation on an unprecedented scale, with rapid economic growth led in most places by the manufacturing industry, and rapidly increasing motorisation. The result has been escalating greenhouse gas emissions, sprawling urban development and local environmental impacts, as well as disparities in income, education levels and job opportunities in the urban population. The great challenges and opportunities offered by such a context call for a green growth model addressing these specific circumstances.

*By 2050, the level
of urbanisation
in Asia is projected
to reach 64%,
compared with
43% in 2010*

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT



Urban Green Growth in Dynamic Asia aims to explore ways to achieve green growth in fast-growing cities in Asia. More specifically, it examines ways to promote greening and competitiveness in a fast-growing economy, to improve environmental performance in cities and urban quality of life, and to increase the institutional capacity to achieve green growth. While the project addresses green growth in Asian cities, it will also benefit all OECD member countries and cities, as it provides “food for thought” for their own green growth policies by learning from the diverse contexts in Asian cities. The expertise and experiences of OECD member countries will also play a leading role in providing relevant international benchmarks.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The concept paper (published in June 2014) proposes an analytical framework for assessing policies for green growth in fast-growing cities in Asia. Its three main elements are:

- Identification of the pre-conditions and key policy strategies for green growth in fast-growing Asian cities, drawing from the urban policy contexts in dynamic Asia, especially considering similarities to and differences from OECD cities;
- Opportunities for urban green growth in dynamic Asia; and
- Key enabling strategies for implementing urban green growth in dynamic Asia.



CASE STUDIES

The case studies of five Asian cities will assess the impact of urban green growth and sustainability policies on economic performance and environmental quality. Bangkok (Thailand), Iskandar Malaysia Economic Region (Malaysia), Bandung (Indonesia), Hai Phong (Vietnam), and Cebu (the Philippines) were selected. The study scope will be developed building on the first phase of the OECD Green Cities Programme but tailored to the specific policy contexts of Asian cities. Each case study will include the following elements:

1. Analysis of key environmental and socio-economic trends of the metropolitan area;
2. Assessment of the policies for areas of opportunity for urban green growth (e.g. energy, land-use and transport, housing and buildings, water resource management, solid waste management, green goods and services);
3. A special chapter to discuss an urban green growth policy topic unique to the case study city; and
4. Identification of enabling strategies for implementing urban green growth.

Green infrastructure and human capital investment are two long-term challenges not to be neglected

The case study will benchmark each city against around 300 other OECD and non-OECD metropolitan areas using a set of economic and environmental indicators. It will also provide policy benchmarks in green growth efforts as well as recommendations for local and national stakeholders. The project period of each case study is about 12 months. The results of the case studies will be published in 2015-16, as well as the synthesis report: *Urban Green Growth in Dynamic Asia*.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING FOR URBAN GREEN GROWTH IN DYNAMIC ASIA

The project aims to facilitate knowledge sharing and mutual learning not only among cities in Asia but also with national governments, OECD cities and institutions for development co-operation. Since 2013, several knowledge sharing events on green cities were conducted under the framework of the Urban Green Growth in Dynamic Asia **Knowledge-Sharing Platform**. The Platform is supported by the OECD Knowledge Sharing Alliance (KSA), and is organised around a series of conferences and workshops, as detailed below:



**3rd OECD Knowledge Sharing Workshop
(Bandung, Indonesia)**

- Five peer-learning workshops hosted by the Asian case study cities. The first four workshops were held in Bangkok, (6-7 August 2014), Iskandar Malaysia (5-6 November 2014), Bandung (6-7 May 2015), and Hai Phong (25-27 June 2015). The last peer-learning workshop will be held in **Cebu on 10-11 December 2015**.
- International conferences. The first two conferences were the Paris Policy Forum on Urban Green Growth in Dynamic Asia (10 June 2014), which kicked-off the Knowledge Sharing Platform, and the Japan-OECD Forum on Urban Development and Green Growth (14-16 October 2014). The next event will be a special side event at **COP21 in Paris (3 December 2015)**.

OECD CONTACTS

The project will be conducted by the Regional Development Policy Division of the OECD's Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development. Contact: Tadashi MATSUMOTO (tadashi.matsumoto@oecd.org).

More information on the Urban Green Growth in Dynamic Asia project and on the OECD KSA can be found at:

www.oecd.org/greengrowth/greening-cities-regions/citiesclimatechangeandgreengrowth.htm
www.oecd.org/knowledge-sharing-alliance/