

# **Setting the Scene: The Rise of Secondary Cities**

Presentation for the  
**Asia Development Dialogue: Building Resilience and Effective  
Governance of Emerging Cities in ASEAN**

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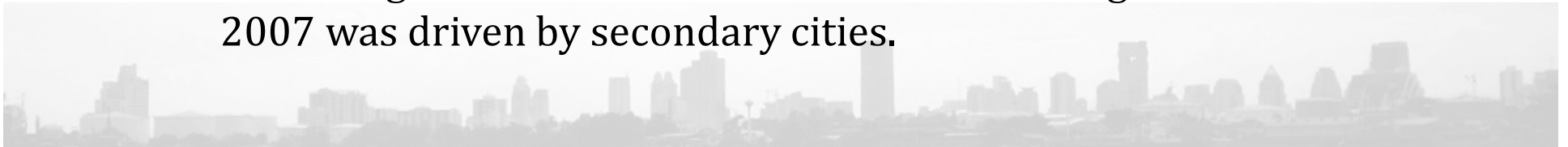
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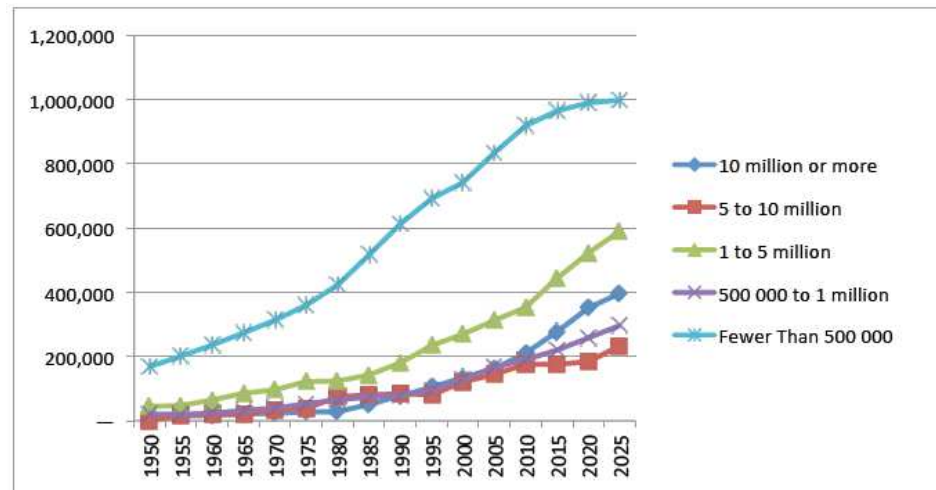


## Asia-Pacific urbanization: The place of secondary cities

- Urban growth in Asia-Pacific will be this century's most important demographic trend.
- In UN projections, almost 90% of the world's urban population growth in 2014-2050 will occur in Asia and Africa.
- In 2014-2050, Asia-Pacific urban share will rise from 43% to 63%: 1.3b over this same period.
- Half of Asia-Pacific's urban population lives in cities <1 million.
- Intermediate or midsized cities (< 5 million) will account for the largest share of urban growth in region's developing countries.
- In China & India where major urban growth will occur, secondary cities expected to absorb half of urban expansion in coming years.
- According to OECD, 43% of member's economic growth in 1995-2007 was driven by secondary cities.



# Secondary cities & Asia-Pacific urbanization: Key trends



Source: Derived from UN World Urbanization Prospects, the 2011 revision data.

City Size	2010	2025
Fewer Than 500 000	50%	40%
500 000 to 1 million	10%	12%
1 to 5 million	19%	23%
5 to 10 million	10%	9%
10 million or more	11%	16%

Source: Derived from UN World Urbanization Prospects, the 2011 revision data.

## The rise – and rise - of secondary cities: At the national level

- Secondary cities assuming greater prominence as economic and development centers in national, regional & global contexts.
  - **China** (1-10 million) – 135 “second-tier” cities. e.g. coastal cities such as Hangzhou, Shantou, Xiamen, and Zhuhai, and inland cities such as Chengdu, Chongqing, Nanjing, Xian.
  - **India** (1-5 million) – 40 cities. e.g. Nagpur, Pimpri Pune and Visakhapatnam.
  - **Thailand** – e.g. Chiang Mai, Pattaya-Bangkok, Chiang Rai-GMR
  - **Malaysia** - regional cities & urban corridors e.g. Klang Valley, Penang-Georgetown, Johor Bahru, Kuantan etc.
  - **Indonesia** – emergence of Bandung, Surabaya, Semarang, Solo etc



## Defining Secondary Cities: Going beyond the numbers

- No universal agreed definition of 'secondary city', often defined by:
  - population size;
  - urban hierarchy in national & regional contexts; or
  - economic & social structure etc.
- Definition by population size:
  - 100,000-500,000/ UNHABITAT, 1996), 250,000-500,000 (Bolton & Hildreth, 2013), 500,000- 1million (World Bank, 2012), 150,000-10 million (Dobbs et al., 2011)
- Economic & social structure: 'large enough to perform important economic & social functions for their populations & in surrounding areas, but smaller than the largest metropolis' (Rondinelli, 1983).
- Role, function and relationship: what secondary cities can tell us



# Defining secondary cities: Going beyond the numbers cont.

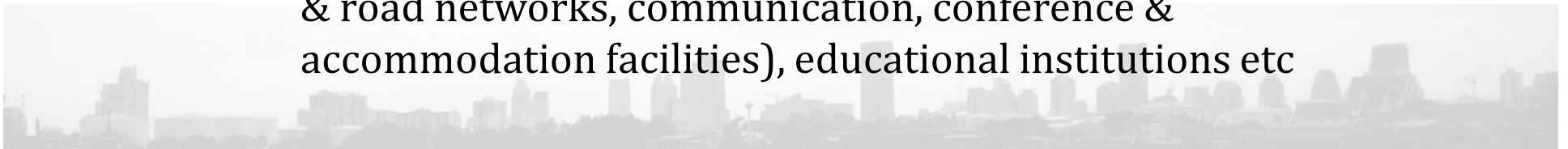
- Understanding secondary cities through past, present & future(s)



Daegu, Cebu, Lanekel, Bukhara, Laguna/CALABARZON region

## Where have secondary cities succeeded?

- Successful cities have tended to leverage:
  - Availability of land & lower land costs
  - Locational advantages – intrinsic & devised  
e.g. proximity to consumer markets /low cost labor markets, linkages with primary & global cities
  - Unique attributes based on historic assets  
e.g. cultural heritage
  - Creative & ambitious local leadership –fashioning opportunity
- Diversified & integrated growth strategies, including:
  - Strategic investment plans to attract business, industries & high skilled workforce – infrastructure (e.g. airports, railway & road networks, communication, conference & accommodation facilities), educational institutions etc



## Where have secondary cities succeeded? (continued.)

- Effective branding;
- Development of high value-added & fast growing industries  
e.g. electronics, pharmaceutical, IT, manufacturing & machinery, e.g. automobile clusters in India;
- Liveability & high quality of environment: recreation and the arts;
- Polycentricity structure through new infrastructure projects that connect to larger cities;
- Integration into the national and regional economy – **but** mono-bases provide risk;
- Partnership/networks with other cities and the private sector. e.g. Bangalore, Zhuhai, Shantou
- Some have even learned from larger city experience: e.g. over-population, poor planning, neglected infrastructure development, environmental degradation.





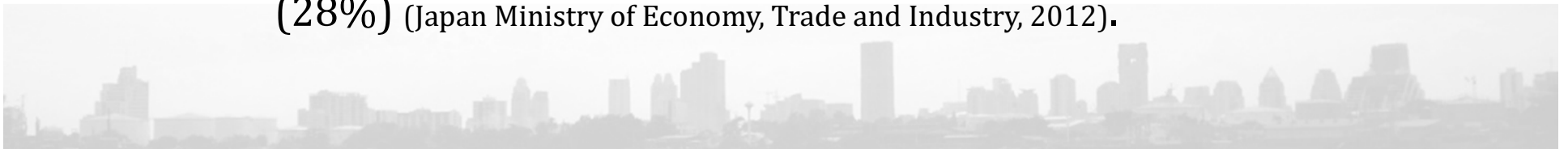
## Challenges faced by secondary cities: Growing pains

- Challenges faced by emerging secondary cities:
  - **Economic** - sufficient and sustainable economic growth, weak linkages to new markets, job creation for large number of in-migrants, attractiveness for investment, 'bankability', fiscal decentralization & 'anemic' revenue from local sources.
  - **Social** - balance between wealth generation & poverty reduction, rapid social change & conflict, spatial segregation, access to social support services.
  - **Infrastructural/Environmental** – infrastructure deficits (e.g. road, public transport, waste treatment, schools, hospitals), shortage/oversupply of housing, urban sprawl, degradation of farmlands and natural resources.
  - **Governance** – weak fiscal base, dependence on allocations, information deficits, limited human resources; regulatory/legal frameworks; LG may simply sustain itself rather than be transformative.



## Secondary cities in decline: Lessons from Japan

- Midsized & small cities in Japan outside metropolitan areas suffered significant decline in the global market & population & aging population since the 1990s due to:
  - Collapse of bubble economies, losing competitiveness, e.g. globalization, lower prices of agricultural products, & loss of manufacturing industries to low labor cost countries.
  - ‘Lost economies’ of centres due to large-scale suburban developments and motorization.
  - Town Center Revitalization Law (1998) enacted - more than 100 cities have been approved under the law to develop and implement their revitalization plans.
  - So far, only a few successful examples. An initial assessment for 14 cities revealed very slow progress against initial goals (28%) (Japan Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, 2012).



## Cities in decline and revitalisation (example)

- Nagahama- city (Japan): branding itself to increase tourism attractiveness  
e.g. restoration of traditional streetscape, and revival of glass crafts & cultural heritages.



- Lessons elsewhere: Yantian in PRD as ‘failed industrialization’; mono-cities in Central Asia, failed master-planned cities & failed placemaking etc.

## Secondary cities, environmental challenges – and opportunities

- The Asia & Pacific region: natural disasters - climate change increases the magnitude & frequency of extreme weather events. 18% of Asia's urban population lives in low-lying coastal zones threatened by sea-level rise (McGranahan et al., 2007).
- Climate change initiatives - focus on secondary cities due to challenges & opportunities to develop more sustainable urban models.
  - Need for increased resilience concurrent to growth;
  - Gaps in provision of infrastructure & services;
  - Limited finances;
  - Less institutional adaptive capacity;
  - Vulnerability of the poorest/migrants to adverse climate-related impacts – limited 'protection';
- The need to shift toward low-carbon futures: secondary cities on the frontline of mitigation & adaptation



## Climate change resilience initiatives

- Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network: ACCCRN (Rockefeller Foundation, 2007) – 10 cities in Indonesia (Semarang, Bandar), India (Indore, Surat, Gorakhpur), Thailand (Chiang Rai, Hat Yai) and Vietnam (Can Tho, Da Nang, Quy Nhon) (Brown et al., 2014; Friend et al., in press)
  - Aims – (i) capacity building to plan, finance, coordinate and implement climate change resilience strategies, (ii) development of a network for knowledge & learning, (iii) expansion and scaling up of the strategies.
- Managing Climates Risks for the Urban Poor (ADB, UK, the Rockefeller Foundation) – 25 cities in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines & Vietnam (ADB, 2013)
  - Aims – (i) integration of resilience thinking into city plans, (ii) provision of technical assistance for 25 infrastructure projects, (iii) knowledge gathering & research.





# Chiang Rai: Urban Ecosystems and Biodiversity Conservation toward Low Carbon City and Climate Change Resilience

**Mixed deciduous forest ecosystem**

1. Participatory-approach survey program for biodiversity conservation at Doi Saken and Doi Prahaht community forests

**Outcomes...**

- short, middle, long-term plan for Doi Saken forest conservation with plant, wildlife, and insect survey report for public distribution
- Biodiversity conservation and learning center, and Doi Saken forest indigenous plant nursery for learning and propagation purpose
- Establishment of "Doi Prahaht Bird Watching Club" and activist group on environmental conservation of Doi Prahaht community

**Agriculture ecosystem**

1. Program to promote the urban organic farming and using micro-organism to eradicate paddy stubble to replace field burning

2. indigenous vegetable and traditional food consumption conservation and promotion program

**Outcomes...**

- Over 400 Rais of paddy field area joining the program using micro-organism to eradicate paddy stubble instead of burning
- Daily community market for indigenous vegetable and traditional food, vegetable supply daily to the province's general hospital, and product sales at a local mall as local community products

**Urban ecosystem**

1. Research on lichens survey in 4 municipal public parks for the indication of urban air quality

2. Large and admirable tree competition campaign

3. Urban agriculture and botanical garden in schools

4. Banana diversity conservation program

**Outcomes...**

- Over 500 species of lichens found in public parks and the assessment report of using lichens as air quality indicator in Chiang Rai urban area
- Over 50 candidate trees for the competitors, and 12 out of those won the prize as large and admirable trees of this year (3 categories: personal premise, corporate area, and community area)
- There are 5 out of 8 municipal schools that owns a farming plots/or botanical garden, some received royal support in plant genetics conservation initiative under her patronage of Princess Mahasirindhorn by having "School Botanical Garden" sign board
- Over 108 banana species found at present

**Wetland ecosystem**

1. Biodiversity conservation and landscape development program at Nong Paung

2. Ecosystems development and cultural promotion program in the Inner Mae Kok Noi river

3. Biodiversity inventory program in Mae Kok Noi river

4. Water quality monitoring program in municipal wastewater treatment, using invertebrates as indicator

5. Biogas production from slaughterhouse waste and wastewater treatment by constructed wetland project

**Outcomes...**

- Biodiversity survey report (aquatic plant and aquatic animal) in Nong Paung swamp and Mae Kok Noi river
- The Inner Mae Kok Noi river development plan with participation from all sectors
- Alternative energy from biogas used as fuel in municipal slaughterhouse
- Learning center at slaughterhouse constructed wetland

**What we have been doing to conserve the urban ecosystems and biodiversity**

There are 4 ecosystems in Chiang Rai city where conservation activities take place in each ecosystem i.e.

## Our urban future and the rise of secondary cities

- In future decades, secondary cities will account for the largest share of urban growth in developing Asia
- Their development will largely shape the region's urban future: a reorientation of research & policy attention
- Secondary cities remain largely untapped: but increased competition for investment and 'placemaking'
- Their development experience is not linear: vulnerability to shifting national/global systems and flux
- State policy is important: enabler, facilitator but also competitor
- On the frontlines of new urban agendas: innovations & policy initiatives at current scale can develop the models for a low-carbon urban future

