

SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION IN ASIA

A SOURCEBOOK FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



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United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254 20 7621 234

Fax: +254 20 7624 266/7

Website: www.unhabitat.org

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Contributors: Bernhard Barth, José Chong, Bharat Dahiya, Yeonghoon Kim, Thomas Stellmach

Overall Coordination: Bernhard Barth

Editors: Bernhard Barth, Fernando Cabrera

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FOREWORD

Urban development challenges in Asia are multi-faceted and appear to be overwhelming at times. They include insufficient provision of infrastructure, rapidly growing slums, urban sprawl and the associated degradation of urban and peri-urban ecosystems, high levels of inequality and underemployment. Many of these local challenges are aggravated by global phenomena such as climate change. This publication has been developed in collaboration between the International Urban Training Centre (IUTC) and UN-HABITAT in order to provide basic principles, knowledge and diverse case studies on sustainable urban development which, if put into practice, should help to put cities on the right path. The publication provides a brief introduction to urban trends in Asia and offers a host of urban planning and management entry points for achieving sustainability. The sourcebook builds on the Sustainable Urbanization training course which was launched at the IUTC in 2007 and will serve as a background document for such courses in the future. I hope that this Sourcebook will serve to enhance the capacity and creativity of urban leaders to steer their cities in the right direction. On behalf of IUTC, I appreciate the valuable contributions of the staff at the IUTC and UN-HABITAT.

Prof. Kwi-Gon Kim

*Emeritus Professor at Seoul National University
Director, International Urban Training Center*

The sourcebook on *Sustainable Urbanization in Asia*, part of a series of publications on urban issues, is designed for local governments in general and as background reading to support training events for urban decision makers in particular. It draws heavily on the UN-HABITAT/UN-ESCAP Report, *The State of Asian Cities 2010/11*. The sourcebook attempts to provide an overview of the multiple challenges cities and local governments face and the many entry points to address them. It provides a framework for achieving urban sustainability through multi-sectoral planning, urban management and governance and highlights the importance of addressing the multitude of social, economic and environmental challenges cities in Asia in an integrated manner. At the same time, sectoral entry points for quick win action are highlighted. Further, opportunities for cities to benefit from moving towards a green economy are explored. Throughout the publication, long-term planning and decision-making are emphasized, as cities need to play a more active role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building up their resilience to natural disasters and climate change.

Gulelat Kebede

*Chief, Training and Capacity Building Branch
UN-HABITAT*

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