

Towards Low Carbon, Green and Sustainable Cities

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Global trends since 1980s

- ❑ Trade liberalization and globalization
- ❑ Greater political freedoms since the fall of the USSR
- ❑ Information revolution



Transformation of Asia and the Pacific

- ❑ Greater interdependence
- ❑ Rapid economic development led by cities
- ❑ Migration to cities
- ❑ Reduction in poverty
- ❑ Growing middle-classes
- ❑ Active and organized civil society including the poor
- ❑ Increased physical and virtual connectivity



Social costs of rapid growth

- ❑ Globalization has increased disparities
 - People who have access to capital and information have benefited
- ❑ More vulnerable to global crises because of connectivity and resource constraints
- ❑ Health, equity, social welfare often ignored
- ❑ Manifested in slums

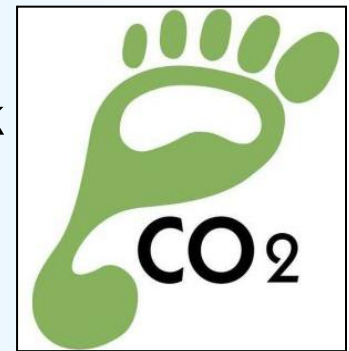
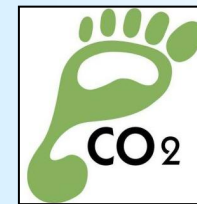


Environmental costs of rapid growth

- ❑ Asia-Pacific already resource poor
- ❑ Environmental costs externalized from developed to developing countries
- ❑ Consumeristic and throw-away attitudes in cities
 - 300 million tons of wastes per year
- ❑ Carbon footprints of Asian cities increasing rapidly



Bangkok



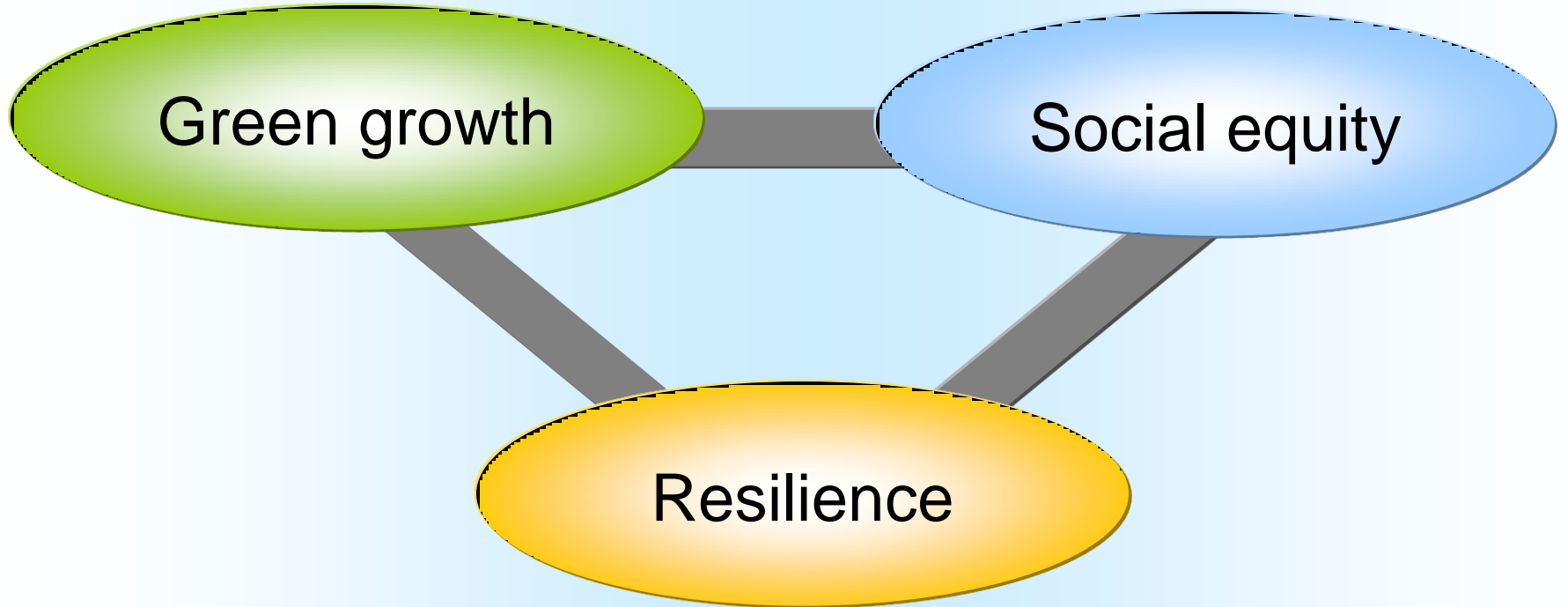
New York

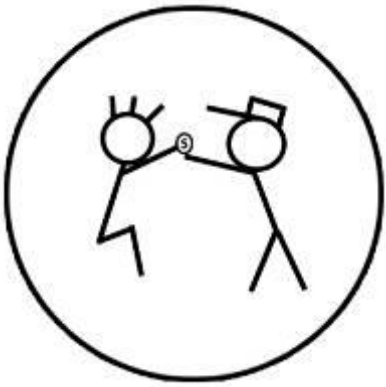
Climate Change

- ❑ 50% urban population lives in low lying coastal or river plains
- ❑ Extreme weather events increasing intensity and frequency
- ❑ Seawater rise
- ❑ Poor suffer more
- ❑ New driver of urbanization
“eco-refugees/eco-migrants”

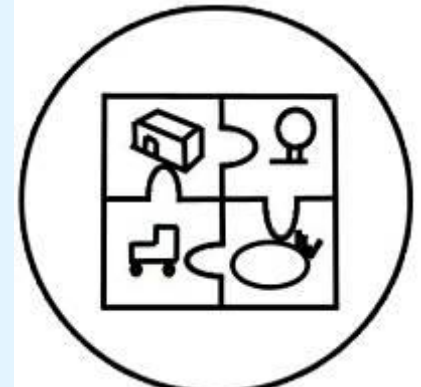


Towards sustainable Cities





Legal and
fiscal
frameworks



Strategic
planning &
policy
development

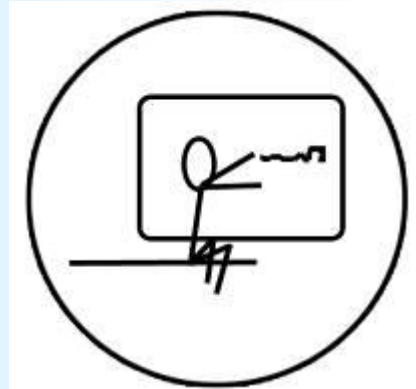
Development Gaps



Financing



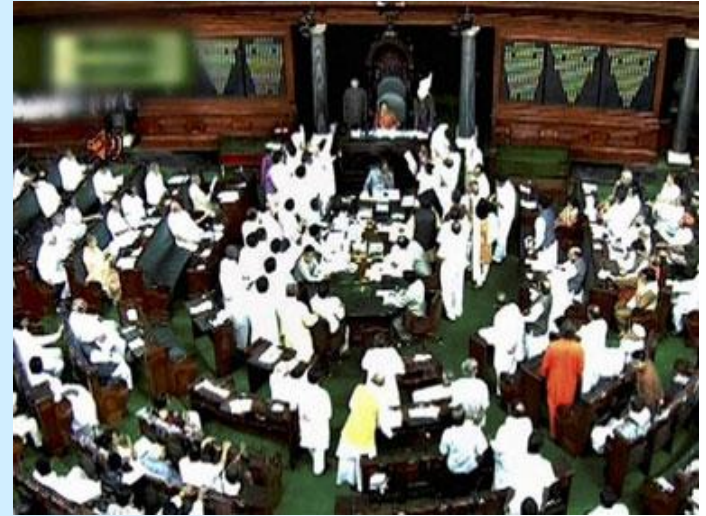
Technology
and process
innovation



Institutional &
human
capacities

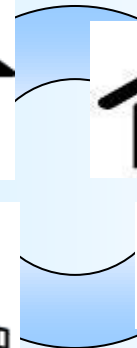
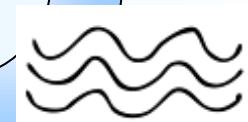
Legal and fiscal framework

- ❑ Giving the right signals to urban market and society to:
 - Internalize social and environmental costs
 - Create jobs
 - Reduce poverty
 - Change attitude
- ❑ Fiscal measures
- ❑ Regulatory measures
- ❑ Advocacy measures



Strategic planning and policy development

- ❑ Bridging the gap between long term development goals and short term political cycles
- ❑ Looking at the spectrum of urban market and society from formal to informal
- ❑ Adopt a “systems” approach
 - Integrating economic, social, environmental & resilience aspects of urban planning and development
 - Coordinating various ministries and levels of government and with other stakeholders



Financing

- ❑ Linking formal finance institutions and markets to informal and community-based finance and social entrepreneurship
- ❑ Attracting Asian sovereign funds
- ❑ Accessing remittance finance
- ❑ Climate change related financing
 - Mitigation
 - Adaptation
- ❑ Social and environmental impact investment



Technology and process innovation

- ❑ Eco-efficiency, affordability and resilience
 - Water and wastewater
 - Buildings
 - Transport
 - Solid wastes
- ❑ Need not be high-tech
- ❑ Ensure technologies not anti-poor



Institutional and human capacities

- ❑ Human capacities
 - Attitudinal change
 - Knowledge
 - Skills
- ❑ Responsive and accountable institutions
- ❑ Learning organizations
- ❑ Institutional space for dialogue and partnerships



Way forward

- ❑ Immense challenges
- ❑ Immense opportunities
- ❑ Cost of doing nothing would be catastrophic
- ❑ Partnerships essential
 - Central government
 - Local government
 - Civil society organizations
 - Organizations of the poor
 - Private sector firms