



OECD GREEN CITIES PROGRAMME

URBAN GREEN GROWTH IN DYNAMIC ASIA PROJECT

URBAN GREEN GROWTH IN DYNAMIC ASIA

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 four to six Asian cities will assess the impact of urban green growth and sustainability policies on economic performance and environmental quality. The study scope will be developed by building on the methodology of the current green city case studies of the Green Cities Programme (Paris, Stockholm, Kitakyushu and Chicago) but tailored to the specific policy contexts of Asian cities. Each case study will include the following elements:

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

1. Analysis of key environmental and socio-economic trends of the metropolitan area;
2. Identification of the existing plans and strategies for urban green growth;
3. 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);
4. A special chapter to discuss an urban green growth policy topic unique to the case study city; and
5. Identification of enabling strategies for implementing urban green growth.

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 first case study started in 2014.

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. To date, several knowledge sharing events on green cities were conducted under the framework of the project, with support of the OECD Knowledge Sharing Alliance (KSA), such as:

- Urban Green Growth in Dynamic Asia: Knowledge Sharing Workshop (24 May 2013, Stockholm, Sweden)
- Mayors Forum: Urban Green Growth in Dynamic Asia (20 October 2013, Kitakyushu, Japan)
- Knowledge Sharing Workshop: Urban Green Growth in Dynamic Asia (27 February 2014, Surabaya, Indonesia)



First OECD Knowledge Sharing Workshop on urban green growth in dynamic Asia, held on 24 May 2013 in Stockholm

In 2014-15 the OECD launches the Urban Green Growth in Dynamic Asia **Knowledge-Sharing Platform**, organised around a series of international conferences and peer learning workshops hosted by Asian cities. The Paris Policy Forum (10 June 2014) is the kick-off event of the Platform.

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/