



Environmentally Sustainable Transport and Green Growth in Asia and the Pacific

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Mandate and context of ESCAP activities



We are...

- Regional Arm of the UN secretariat in Asia-Pacific
- Mandated from GA and ESCAP Member States to integrate environment into socio-economic development

We do...

- Support the achievement of the **MDGs** in particular
 - MDG 1 (poverty reduction) and
 - MDG 2 (environmental sustainability)
- Create synergies between the economy and the environment: promote environmentally sustainable economic growth – “**Green Growth**”
- Focus on **co-benefits**

Sustainability challenges for Asia and the Pacific



- Asia-Pacific has witnessed rapid and remarkable economic growth in recent years
- Persistent developmental challenges require, however, increased economic growth
 - 2/3 world poor
 - > 600 million without safe drinking water
 - 1.9 billion without proper sanitation
 - 800 million without electricity
- Asia-Pacific has, however, the most limited ecological carrying capacity
 - High population density (1.5 world average)
 - Lower arable land (80%) and productive land (60%)
 - Lower freshwater availability
 - 34% of global GHG emission
 - High ecological deficit (0.5 gha/capita)

Promoting “Green Growth”



- These challenges call for economic growth patterns that are compatible with a limited carrying capacity
- Green Growth seeks to apply the concepts of eco-efficiency to economies and societies at large
- Green Growth: 5 priority tracks for integrating eco-efficiency:
 - Eco-tax reform
 - Sustainable infrastructure development
 - Improving consumption patterns
 - Promoting the greening of business
 - Developing eco-efficiency indicators
- Green Growth endorsed as regional sustainable development strategy for Asia-Pacific (MCED 5, 2005)

Sustainable Infrastructure



- Infrastructure has vital implications for sustainable development:
 - Central to socio-economic development: supports economic activities + delivers goods and services to communities
 - Critical determinants of environmental impacts: intensive in resource use (energy, water, materials, land) + locks into consumption patterns for decades
- Little attention so far on sustainability aspects, as compared to financing and engineering aspects
- Policy window to act now: Asia-Pacific is at a crossroads in developing and expanding infrastructure in support of fast economic growth
- Infrastructure in urban areas deserves special attention
- Transport: key sector and priority area

Applying eco-efficiency to infrastructure development



- How cities are planned, developed and managed, will have a major bearing on sustainable development of the region
- Integrated, people-centered urban planning can deliver substantial economic, environmental and social benefits
- Congestion and poor quality infrastructure as main factors negatively influencing competitiveness of cities (OECD)
- Eco-efficiency is a key criterion for sustainability and competitiveness
- Eco-efficient infrastructure: higher-quality services with less use of resources and lower negative environmental impact
- In the context of climate change, eco-efficient infrastructure development is essential to the development of “low-carbon” economies

Current limitations



- Criteria and measures for developing sustainable infrastructure are yet to be fully identified and applied
 - Current methodologies either do not consider environmental and social aspects, or are misapplied or misunderstood
 - Impacts of long-term use need to be reflected into policies and programs through tools such as SEA (not yet common practice)
- Lack of integration of environmental and social aspects into all stages of infrastructure development
- This is reflected in a lack of integration of environmental and social aspects in policies and in institutions
- This results in several distorting effects, including in public resources allocation
- Widespread lack of awareness of sustainability concepts as applied to infrastructure development among key actors

Promoting Sustainable Infrastructure Development



- Project “Eco-efficient and Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Development in Asia and Latin America”
 - Joint project of ESCAP and ECLAC with UN-HABITAT
 - Focus on key sectors: **transport**, energy, water, waste management, buildings
 - Seek to apply eco-efficiency to urban infrastructure
 - Development of a methodology to assess the eco-efficiency of existing and prospective infrastructure
 - Conduct of case studies
 - Identification of good practices
 - Analysis and identification of financing opportunities through participation in carbon markets (CDM)
 - Project seeks to support and engage regional and national partners

Kitakyushu Initiative (KI)



- 10-year programme (2000-2010) adopted at the 4th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development held in Kitakyushu, Japan in September 2000
- ESCAP's primary instrument to promote local environmental initiatives
- Mandate to achieve measurable progress in improvement of the urban environment in Asia-Pacific
- Promotes local initiatives targeting control of air and water pollution, minimization of all kinds of wastes, taking selected technical, institutional, regulatory and participatory measures
- Attempts to draw lessons from the practices and experiences of Kitakyushu and other cities in Asia Pacific
- Mutual assistance facilitated through network of > 60 cities

KI - Activities 2nd cycle 2006-2010



- Green Growth focus strengthened
- New focus on integrating co-benefit approach
 - Local environment
 - Global environment
 - Local economic livelihood
 - Poverty alleviation, health, gender equity
 - Governance / stakeholder partnership, human rights
 - Self sustainability (financial, socio-economic), etc.
- Climate change components being strengthened
 - More efficient energy use in municipal facilities
 - CDM as additional financial opportunity (MSW, Energy Efficiency, Transport etc.)
- Enhancing political priority & financial feasibility of urban environmental actions

Thank you for your attention !



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More information on ESCAP's activities:

<http://www.unescap.org/esd/index.asp>

<http://www.greengrowth.org/>

<http://www.iges.or.jp/kitakyushu/>