

Stronger Together Voluntary Metropolitan Coordination Across Local Boundaries on SDGs and Governance - Cases from Europe and Asia

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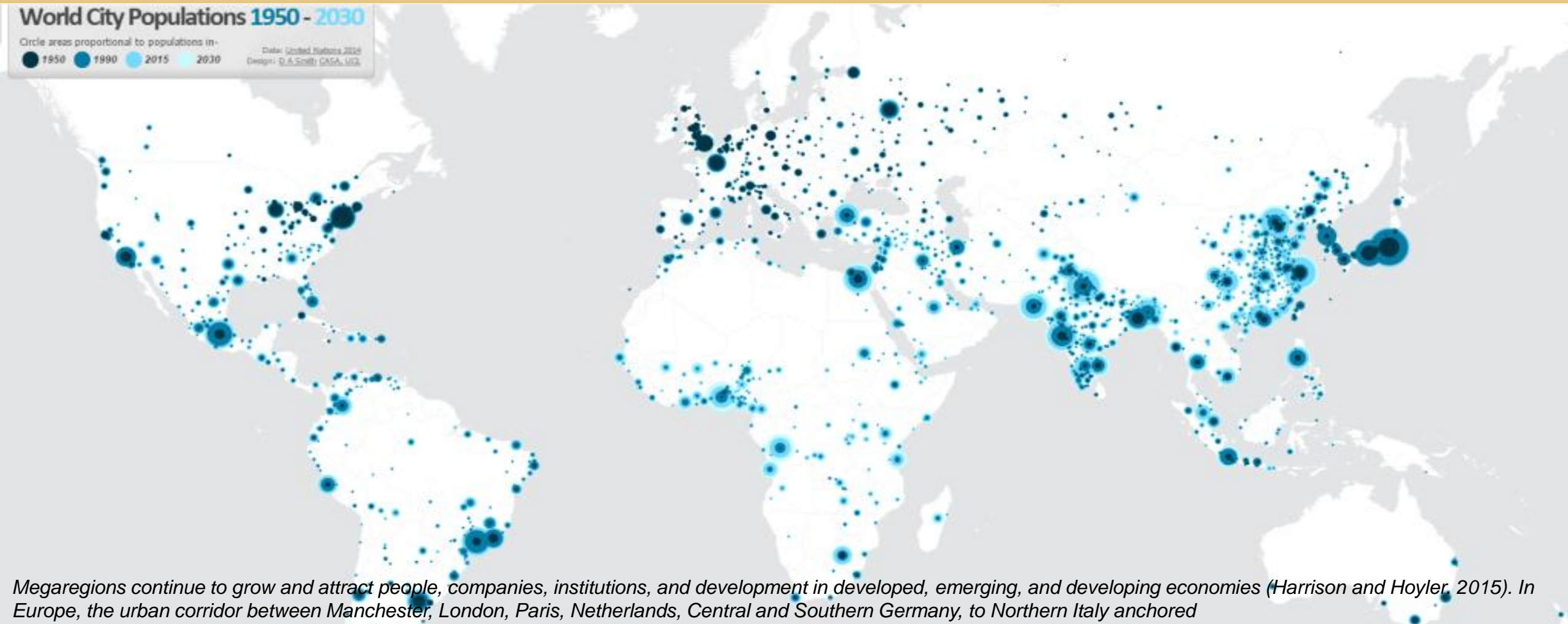
Co-Chair Peter Fong, Hong Kong Public Administration Association, Hong Kong

Speakers:

1. Ms. Parul Agarwala, Country Programme Manager, UN-Habitat, India office.
2. Mr. Atul Kaushik, Global Development Centre (GDC) & Global South Centre of Excellence (DAKSHIN) hosted at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)
3. Mrs Lichia Saner-Yiu, President, CSEND, Geneva, Switzerland

Stronger Together: Voluntary Metropolitan Coordination

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Megaregions continue to grow and attract people, companies, institutions, and development in developed, emerging, and developing economies (Harrison and Hoyler, 2015). In Europe, the urban corridor between Manchester, London, Paris, Netherlands, Central and Southern Germany, to Northern Italy anchored by metropolitan Milan, has a population of about 110 million and is referred to as “Blue Banana.” The Tokyo–Nagoya–Osaka–Fukuoka corridor in Japan, for example, with a population of more than 70 million along 1,200 kilometers, is also referred to as Taiheio Belt or Tokaido Megalopolis. The corridor is connected by the Shinkansen high-speed train and is generating about 80% of the country’s economic output. The northeast in the United States (US) from Boston to Washington has a population of about 50 million people and a GDP of \$3.6 trillion (Florida 2019). Source: Stefan Rau, “Urban Synergies Through Coordinated City Cluster Governance”

Map source: <https://citygeographics.org/2015/12/09/mapping-the-global-urban-transformation/>

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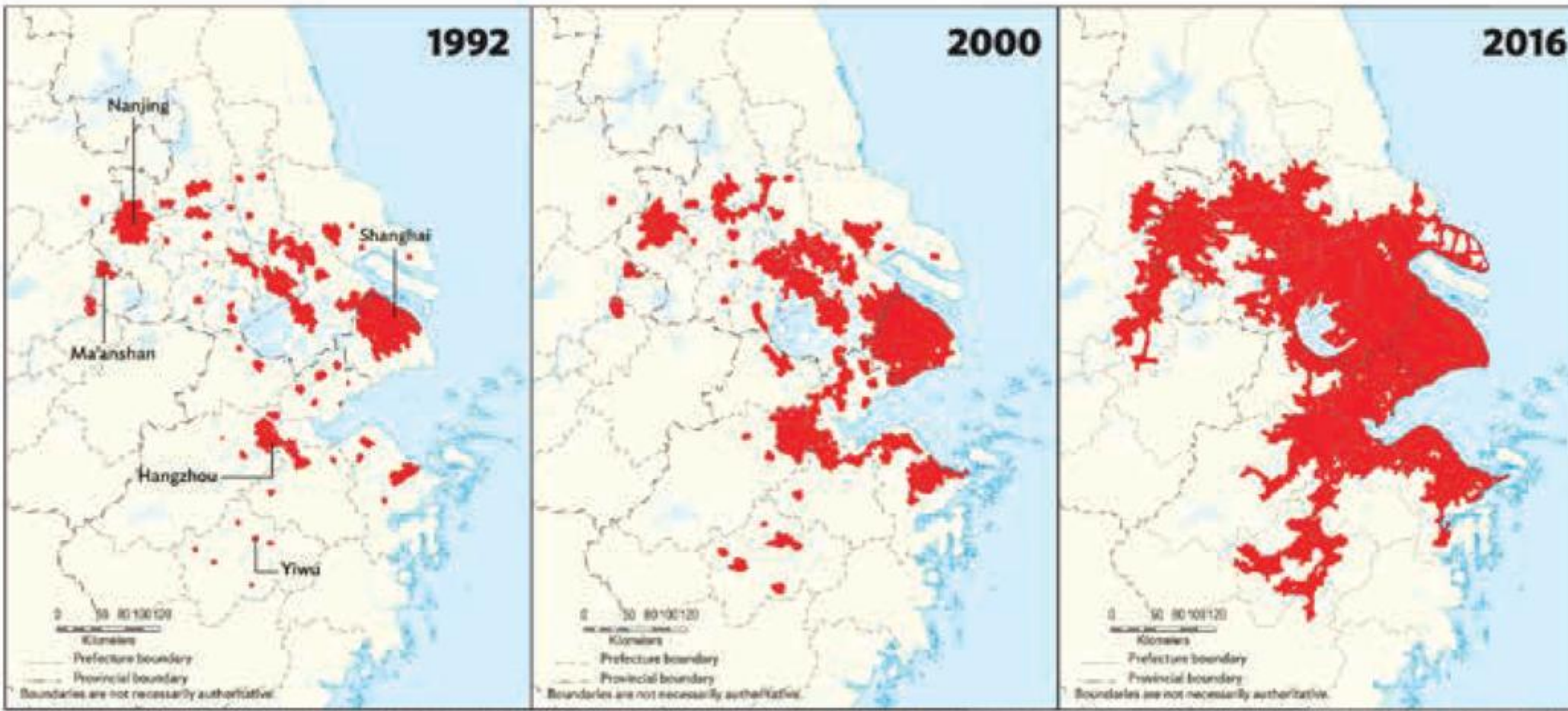


Map 2: Formation of City Cluster Centered Around Shanghai

In the PRC, mega-urban regions are referred to as city clusters. Some of them are as large as European countries both by population and territories, most notably the three coastal Megaregions:

Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei,
Yangtze River Delta (YRD), and
Pearl River Delta (PRD),
which are defined by administrative boundaries.

YRD is largest in Asia

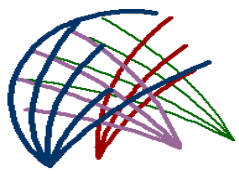


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Source: Asian Development Bank. 2019. *Asian Development Outlook 2019 Update: Fostering Growth and Inclusion in Asia's Cities*. Manila: p.61.

Multi-level Review

1. Voluntary National Review (VNR)
2. Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSR)
3. Voluntary Metropolitan Review (VMR)
4. Voluntary Local Review (VLR)



Voluntary Reviews

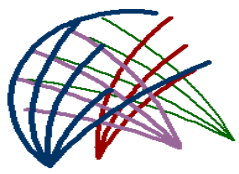


VNR- Voluntary National Reviews

regular and inclusive reviews of progress of 2030 Agenda implementation at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven“, every year at HLPF 40+ countries present their VNR

VLR- Voluntary Local Reviews

local and regional governments reports on their 2030 Agenda implementation. These VLRs can reinforce vertical coherence and complement and contribute to the national Voluntary National Reviews of SDG implementation.



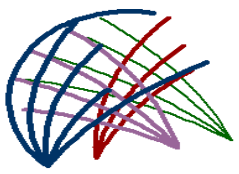
Voluntary Reviews (2)



VSR- Voluntary Subnational Reviews

Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) are led by local and regional governments' associations, advance an innovative approach to SDG monitoring and reporting.

This innovative approach differs from Voluntary Local Reviews in that VSRs provide country- wide analyses of subnational efforts and challenges to localize the SDGs.



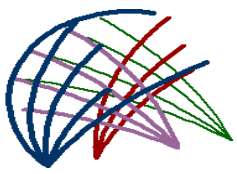
Voluntary Reviews (3)



VMR- Voluntary Metropolitan Reviews

Metropolitan areas, according to the OECD, are cities with population between 500 thousand and 1.5 million people. They can be **agglomerations of separate cities** which have been integrated into a larger urban area.

The separate areas retain autonomy which can make it difficult for the metropolitan area as a whole to coordinate sustainable growth and other functions of city government.



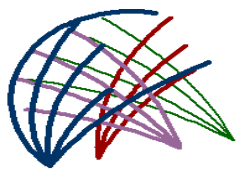
Voluntary Metropolitan Review



VMR Voluntary Metropolitan Review

Metropolitan areas and their surrounding territorial entities (towns, villages) need to manage the many **interdependencies** they have such as natural resources (water, air, land), personal security, safe and affordable housing, transportation, waste, energy, education, etc.

At the same time, such metropolitan areas need to **collaborate and negotiate** with the autonomous entities that surround them who often have their own political mandate and institutions (administration, local police, primary, schools, waste management etc.).



Voluntary Metropolitan Review



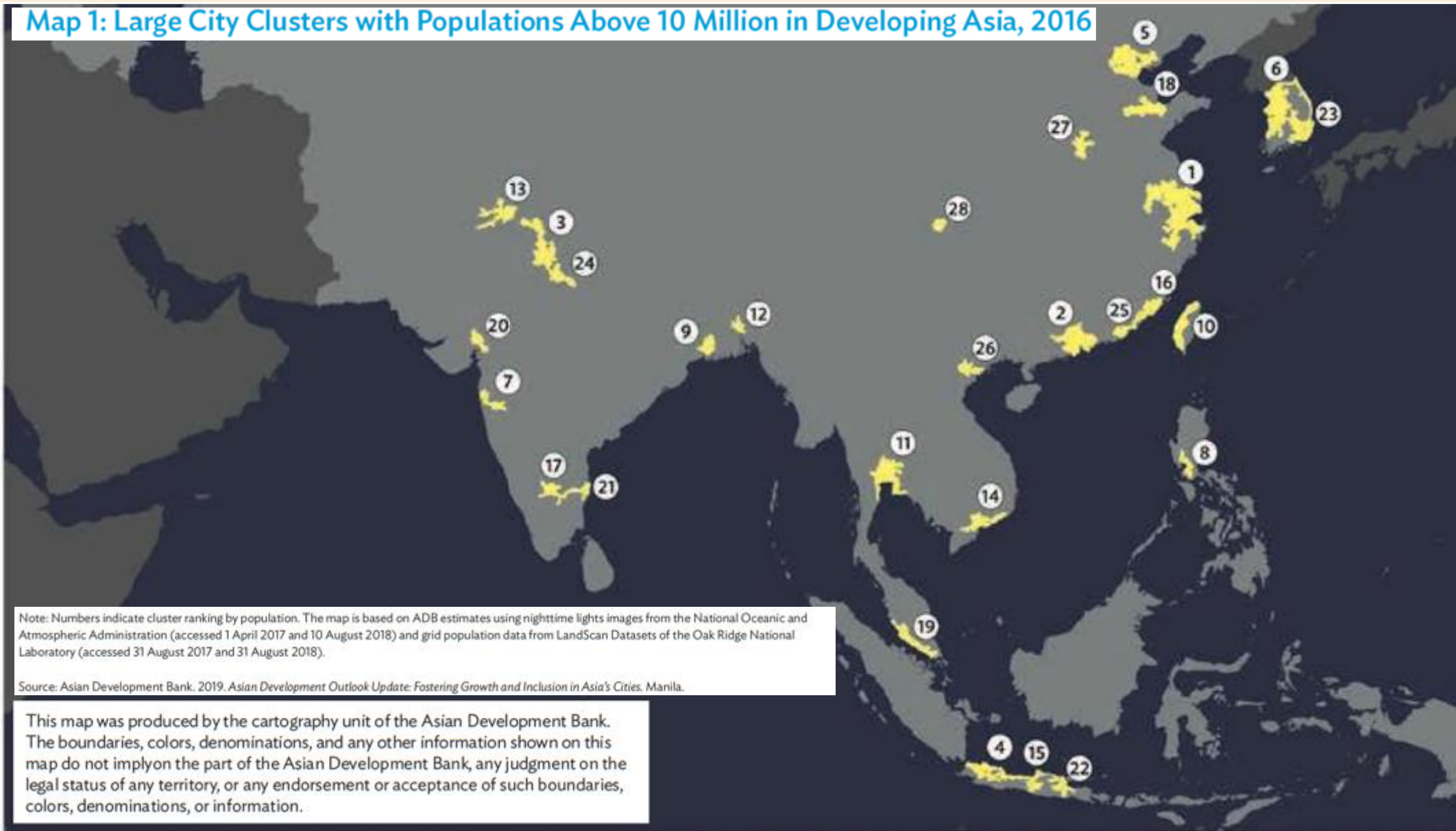
Successful SDGs implementation for Metropolitan Cities requires multiple competencies:

1. Efficient and effective inter-ministerial policy coordination of SDG implementation strategy at core city level
2. Ability to initiate and practice policy consultation from the city government towards private sector/CSO policy consultation and vice-versa
3. Negotiating a coherent and united SDG strategy together with the political entities that surround the core city and with whom the core city shares many interdependencies.

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Map 1: Large City Clusters with Populations Above 10 Million in Developing Asia, 2016



Of the largest 28 megaregions in developing Asia with more than 10 million people in 2016, 8 are in the People's Republic of China (PRC), 7 in India, 3 in Indonesia, and 2 each in the Republic of Korea and Viet Nam.

19 of these 28 clusters cut across at least two higher-level administrative boundaries like provinces.

Note: Numbers indicate cluster ranking by population. The map is based on ADB estimates using nighttime lights images from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (accessed 1 April 2017 and 10 August 2018) and grid population data from LandScan Datasets of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (accessed 31 August 2017 and 31 August 2018).

Source: Asian Development Bank. 2019. *Asian Development Outlook Update: Fostering Growth and Inclusion in Asia's Cities*. Manila.

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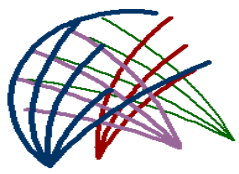
CITY CLUSTERS IN THE PRC AS PLANNED IN THE 13TH FIVE-YEAR PLAN



City clusters have been part of the PRC's urbanization strategy, at least since the PRC's National Urban System Plan in 2006. The PRC's National New-Type Urbanization Plan (2014–2020) and its Thirteenth Five-Year Plan (13th FYP) involved 19 city clusters for enhanced coordination with a mandate to complete cluster-wide plans and initiate institutional coordination mechanisms before the year 2020 (Government of the PRC, State Council 2014 and 2015). These clusters have already become population magnets, and account for more than 90% of the national GDP.

Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei (BTH) has about 110 million residents, including all of Hebei (by administrative boundary), and generates about 10% of the national GDP. Shanghai and the YRD Agglomeration, with a total population of about 152 million (by administrative boundary), is the most productive, generating about 21% of the PRC's GDP with about 12% of its people. The newly conceived Greater Bay Area (GBA), including Guangzhou (with the PRD) and also Hong Kong, China and Macau, China, has a total population of about 70 million (by administrative boundary), producing about 12% of national GDP with about 5% of its people. It competes internationally in innovation and high technology as a new kind of Silicon Valley. Together, these three most mature clusters are referred to as BeiShangGuang (short for Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou). Other significant clusters include the Chengdu–Chongqing City Cluster (ChengYu) in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, and the Central Yangtze River City Cluster (CYR) around Wuhan.

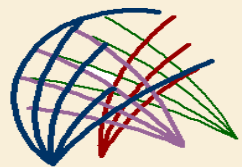
Source: National Development and Reform Commission, The PRC's 13th Five-Year Plan (Beijing, 2016)



Voluntary Metropolitan Review



1. How to coordinate, plan, cooperate between entities of large metropolitan-megacities?
2. How to create meaningful and effective multi-stakeholder participation? Creative placemaking?
3. How to correct wrong directions- authoritarian rule? Laissez-faire? Controle movement of people from rural to urban centres?



Diplomacy Dialogue

