



Development Policy 2019

Session (10): Big City Problems in Asia and Vietnam

An aerial photograph of a city skyline at sunset. The sky is filled with dramatic, colorful clouds in shades of orange, pink, and blue. The city features numerous high-rise buildings, some of which are illuminated with lights. A large river flows through the foreground, and a blue cargo ship is visible on the water. The overall scene captures the vibrant energy of a modern urban environment during the 'golden hour' of sunset.

# Schedule

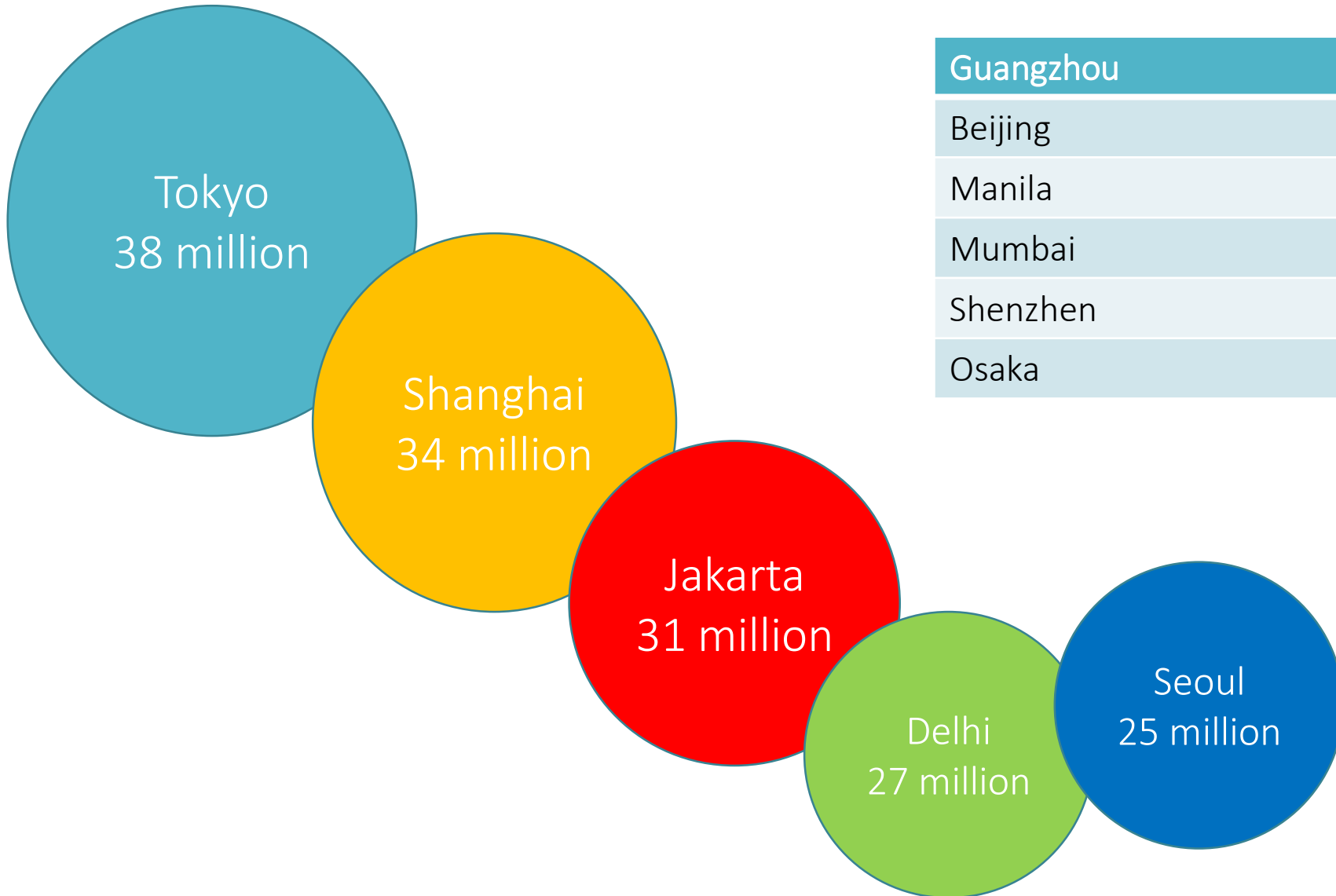
- What are problems of cities in developing countries?
- Many cities and metropolitan areas in Asia have suffered from urban problems. What are they?
- What are Vietnam's big city problems? How to solve them?

# Background

- According to UN Habitat's most recent ***World Cities*** report (2017), cities today make up more than half of the world's population and account for 80% of global GDP.
- Asia-Pacific region – the world's most rapidly urbanizing region. The region's average annual urbanization rate has been 3% -- helped lift 655 million population out of poverty in the last two decades.
- The World Bank – since 2000, over 2000 million people have migrated into cities across Asia.
- Asia is currently home to some 17 megacities, expected to grow to an unprecedented 22 by 2030.







|           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| Guangzhou | 25 million |
| Beijing   | 24 million |
| Manila    | 24 million |
| Mumbai    | 23 million |
| Shenzhen  | 23 million |
| Osaka     | 20 million |

Wuhan  
Dhaka  
Chengdu  
Chongqing  
Karachi, Pakistan  
Bangkok  
Tianjin  
Kolkata

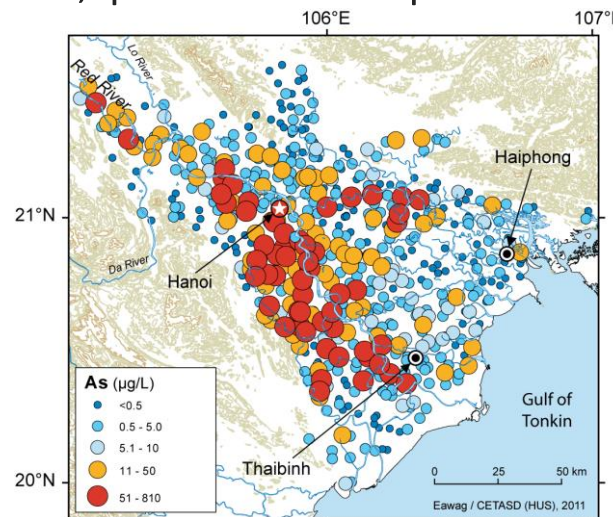
# Urban Challenges in Asia

- The region also has the world's largest slum population: 250 million people with poor-quality housing, limited access to basic services, and risk to hazards → Impact on the region's growth potential.
- (c.f.) Singapore's growth (1970s-80s): due to urban planning strategy → delivered effective infrastructure, affordable housing, and social services.
- 75 million people in the region live on less than USD 3.10 a day. Lack of jobs, public transport, water, etc. (e.g.) Indonesia (27%) and Philippines (21%) of urban population have NO access to effective sanitation facilities.
- Immobility (public transportation) – (e.g.) Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, low-income commuters can spend as much as 36% of their monthly expenses on their bus fare. Traffic congestion
- Has spillover effects → energy | environment (greenhouse gas) | urban health | education | etc.



# Urban Challenges in Vietnam?

- Total 800 urban areas across Vietnam (urbanization rate, 37%), expected to increase by 50% by 2025.
- Low-value-added jobs, urban finance, natural disaster, Waste management, air pollution (Hanoi), water treatment, public transportation, etc. Many smaller cities.



Supplementary information to research article "Arsenic pollution of groundwater in Vietnam exacerbated by deep aquifer exploitation for more than a century", published in PNAS. doi:10.1073/pnas.1011915108  
Weblink: [www.eawag.ch/arsenic-vietnam](http://www.eawag.ch/arsenic-vietnam)



# Socio-Economic and Spatial Polarization

- Different types of economic growth promote different types of social norms.
- Growing number of high-level professionals and high-profit making service firms have the effect raising the degree of spatial and socio-economic inequality evident in these cities (in particular, world cities in the South).
- Economic polarization – income inequality and job security
- Social & spatial polarization: drive working class and unemployed to more peripheral areas (new form of ghettoization)



# Can Smart Cities Solve the Problems?

## E-governance and citizen services

- Public information
- Electronic service
- Citizen engagement, etc.

## Waste management

- Waste to energy and fuel
- Waste water to be treated
- Recycling

## Water management

- Smart management
- Leakage identification
- Water quality monitoring



## Energy management

- Smart management
- Renewable sources
- Energy efficiency

## Urban transportation

- Traffic flows / parking
- Integrated transport system

## Others

- Skill development centers
- Education
- Business supports, etc.

# Vietnam's Smart City Plans

- Vietnam's urbanization rate increased from 24% (1999) to 37% (2017) – traffic jams, water shortage, flooding, environmental pollution. Can smart city solve these problems?
- Smart cities supported by smart government and people. (e.g.) Danang City (2014) – project to build a smart city by 2020 (city-connections, transportation, water solutions, etc.). HCMC (by 2020, by 2025, smart city operations).
- Is this a feasible option? Any challenges?
- (e.g.) Smart City standards: intelligent people, intelligent economy, smart living environment, intelligent digital government and smart communication



BRG-Sumitomo joint Venture



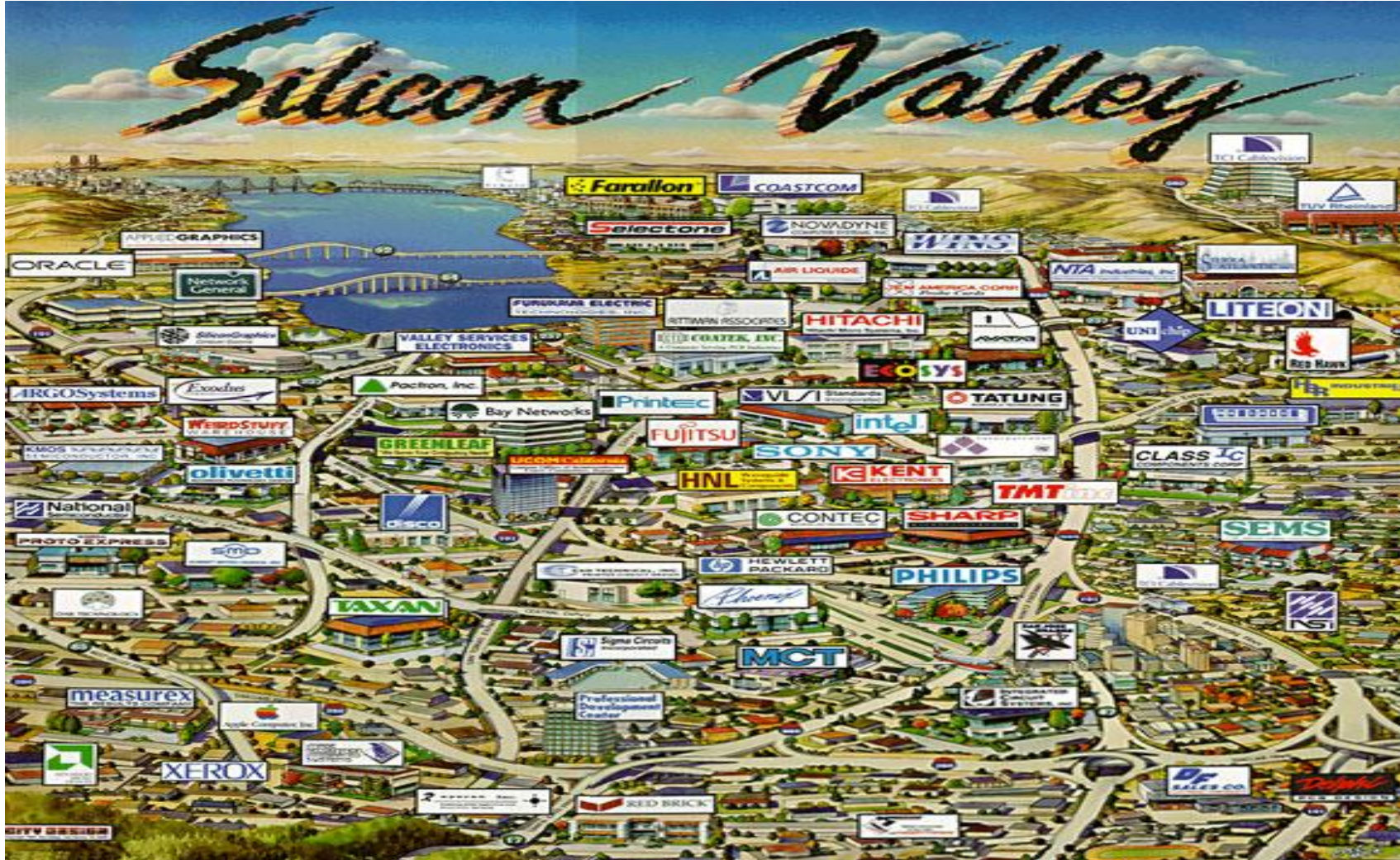
# Can Global Cities Solve the Problems?

- Key structures of the world economy are necessarily situated in cities and cities are shaped by their position in the international division of labor (Sassen, 199) → If Ho Chi Minh City or Hanoi developed further as global cities, can the problems be saved?
- Integrated into the world economy. Service-oriented industry, financial centers, global financial flow. (e.g.) **Ho Chi Minh International Finance Center plan** → replace manufacturing.
- Technological transfer, shifts in energy source, further urbanization, better infrastructure
- Can solve the problem or not? Discuss



# Cities Grow Naturally but Strategically

State's  
strategic  
planning  
and  
investment





# (e.g.) Tsukuba, Japan – “Science Castle”

- Tsukuba Science City presents one of the world’s largest coordinated attempts to accelerate the rate of growth and improve the quality of scientific discovery (1960s).
- Totally government promoted scheme (half-size of Tokyo)
- Designated as ‘research and education district’ (Tsukuba Science City Law, 1967)
- Accommodate private research institutes and future-oriented, while preserving high-quality environment (successfully induced private institutes).
- By the end of 1980s, 30% of all national research institutes, and 40% of researchers were found in Tsukuba.

# (e.g. Singapore's Bio Cluster

- Following the U.S. experience and model: Singapore created 'Bio Cluster.'
- Link universities and businesses, recruit star scientists as inventors and entrepreneurs, located large pharmaceutical firms.
- Clusters around key hospitals, universities, government labs, and *good urban amenities*.
- Created Bio-polis: Invested USD 286 million, housed 5 public institutes, close to university hospital (NUH), and place where researchers work, live, and learn.
- Invest in domestic human capital too.



# Lesson & Discussion

- In addition to Silicon Valley (California, Palo Alto), Tsukuba (Japan), Bio-Polis (Singapore), there are many post-industrial type of cities (e.g. U.S. Boston Highway 128, South Korea's Daedeok (Research and Development Special Zone)).
- Could you find any commonality? Discuss