Regional City Academy for Asia

City Introduction

















Regional City Academy for Asia



Malaysia

Presented By:

Nurul Hidayah Shabdin

Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT)

MALAYSIA: Urban Highlights and Fun Facts



☐ GEF-8: Sustainable Cities Integrated Program (UNIDO Project ID: 230257)

Project Title: Decarbonisation and sustainable cities for a net-zero future in Malaysia

LEAD STATE

Selangor

OBJECTIVE

To reduce the GHG emission from cities and support the national target to reduce carbon intensity by 45% in 2030 through Nature-based solutions and advanced technologies - addressing urban development challenges in an integrated way that scales up investment in innovative technologies and practices to address GHGs, climate change resilience, land degradation, and biodiversity in urban areas in Malaysia

Shah Alam

• Land area: 290 km²

• Population: 618, 456

GEF FUNDING

4.784.138.67 USD

Cyberjaya (Sepang District)

Klang

• Land area: 28.17km²

• Population: 140,000

• Land area: 626.8 km²

• Population: 850, 083

COMPONENTS Component 1: Enabling policies for cities to address climate change, biodiversity, and land degradation.

> Component 2: Stimulating innovation and financing models for net-zero development and nature-based solutions.

> **Component 3**: Demonstration projects in 3 pilot cities and scaling up

> **Component 4**: Knowledge management and capacity building

Component 5: Monitoring and Evaluation







INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS









NATIONAL & STATE PARTNERS

FUN FACTS!

- Shah Alam city has **hectares** of green parks recreational spaces (10% of its total area) which crucial in combatin climate change.
- Klang city houses the Klang River, which spans about 120 km. This river is crucial for local biodiversity.
- Cyberjaya in Sepang District rich in biodiversity, featuring mangrove forests that play a vital role in carbon sequestration and mitigating climate change effects.

Regional City Academy for Asia



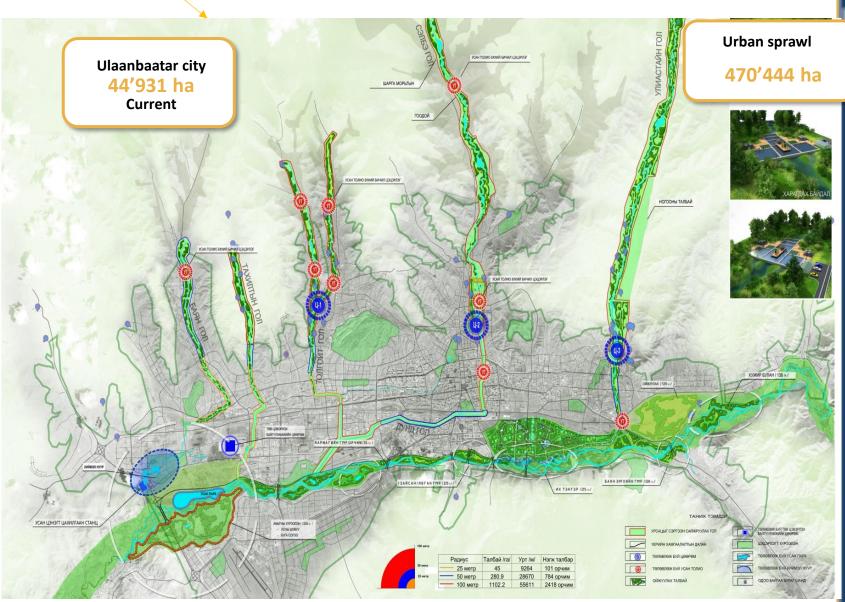
Mongolia

Presented By:

Erdenejargal Munkhkhuyag

Ulaanbaatar

MONGOLIA: CAPITAL CITY OF ULAANBAATAR



Ulaanbaatar City Land and Population Overview

Land Area: The city's total land boundary covers **44,931.7** hectares.

- Of this, 18,702.8 hectares are designated for urban development.
- This area represents only 0.3% of Mongolia's total land area.

Population: Ulaanbaatar has approximately **1.6 million residents**, which accounts for **46%** of the entire country's population.

•Green Space: The average green space per person is 8 square meters.

Pedestrian Infrastructure: The city has **586 kilometers** of designated pedestrian pathways.

Public Facilities: There are **42 square meters** allocated per kindergarten.

Geography & Location:

Ulaanbaatar is surrounded by the southern tip of the Khentii Mountains, including Bayanzurkh Bogdhan, Songinokhairkhan, and Chingeltei Khairkhan. It is situated where the Tuul and Selbe rivers meet.

THE FUN FACTS ABOUT THE ULAANBAATAR CITY

Did you know? You can actually see the face of Chinggis Khan carved into a mountain!

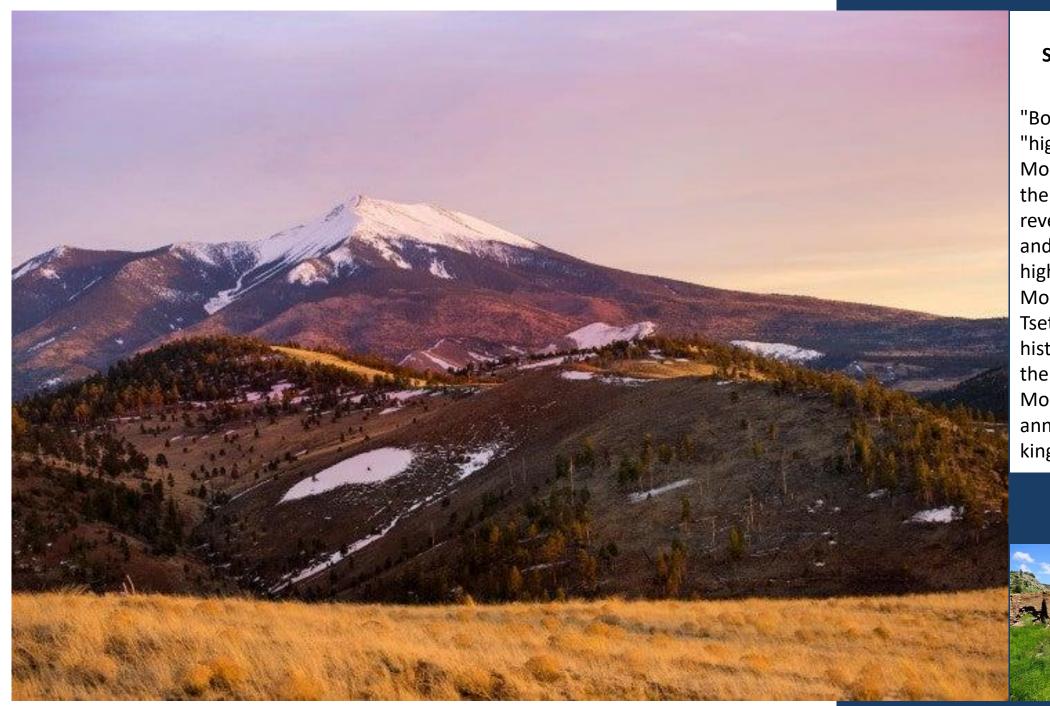


This iconic image is located in one of the world's earliest protected areas, making it a truly legendary site for history and nature lovers alike

ONE OF THE EARLIEST PROTECTED AREAS IN THE WORLD IS LOCATED IN ULAANBAATAR

Bogd Khan Mountain is one of the first protected areas in the world. Historic documents show that Mongolians have been worshipping and protecting this mountain for 3000 years. Then, in 1924, a decree to make natural scenic such places as Bogd Khan, Otgontenger, Khan Khentii and Altai Mountain Pass protected areas were added to section 398 of the Mongolian Yuan Dynasty's legal code. In 1778, Bogd Khan Mountain was officially taken under state protection.

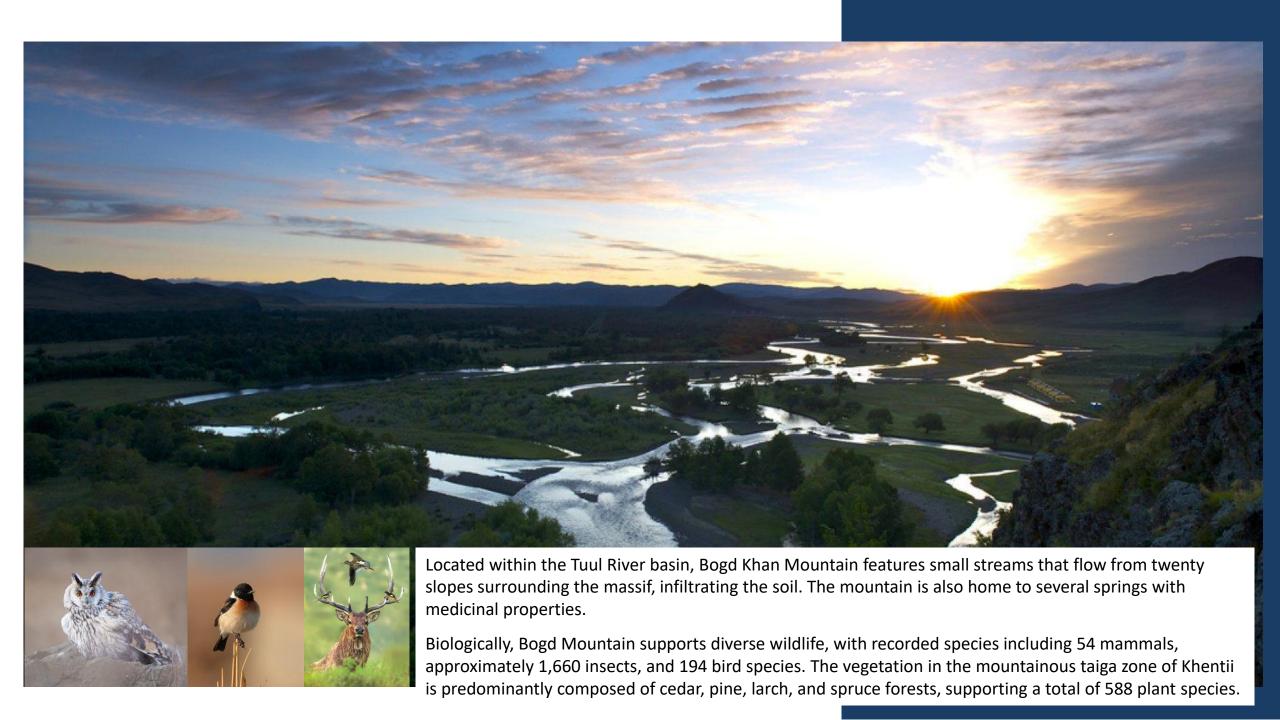




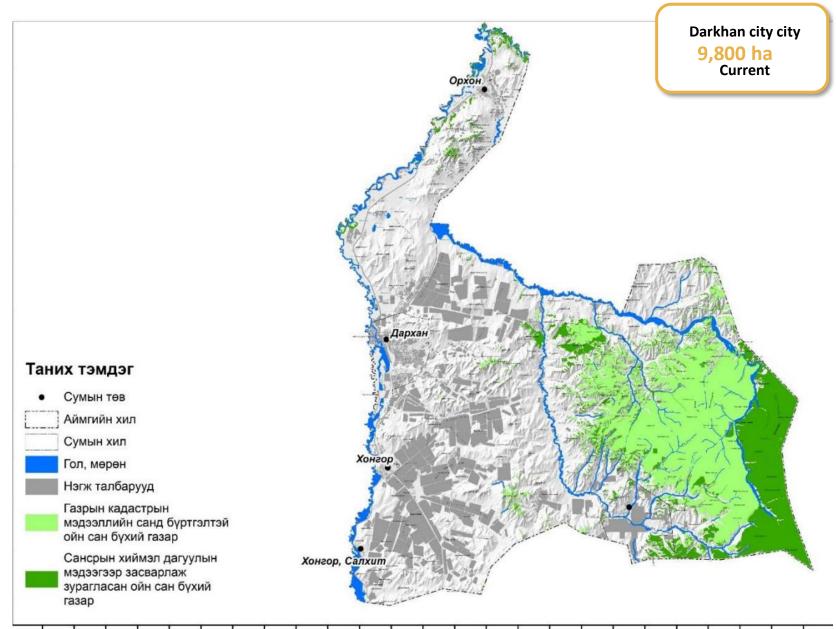
The Name and Significance of Bogd Mountain

"Bogd" means "sacred," "high," or "holy" in Mongolian. Historically, the mountain has been a revered site for shamans and Buddhists alike. The highest point of Bogd Mountain, known as Tsetse Gun, was historically referred to as the "State Tribute Mountain" and was annually honored by kings and princes.





MONGOLIA: DARKHAN CITY



Darkhan City Land and Population Overview

- •Establishment: Darkhan was founded in 1961 as a construction materials production center.
- •Population: The city has about 92413 residents.
- •Size and Location: Darkhan is the second largest city in Mongolia, located 240 km north of Ulaanbaatar. It is a central hub for roads and railways in the Selenge region.

•Environment and Activities:

Visitors enjoy fresh air, blue skies, a peaceful atmosphere, and plenty of open space for outdoor activities like hunting and fishing.

•Nearby Attractions:

- Zulzagiin Gol: A beautiful natural area 30 km east of Darkhan.
- Amarbayasgalant Khiid: One of Mongolia's largest and most important monasteries, about a 3-hour drive to the west.

THE FUN FACTS ABOUT THE DARKHAN CITY The Morin Khuur Complex: A Monument with a Musical Twist!



Mongolia's "Horse-Headed Fiddle" (Morin Khuur) Complex isn't just a stunning sculpture—it's also a tribute to music, legend, and teamwork

The Morin Khuur Complex

The 18-meter-tall bronze Morin Khuur (horse-headed fiddle) honors Mongolia's national instrument—whose melodies are said to mimic galloping horses and flowing rivers!

Based on the Legend of Khukhuu Namjil, the complex features a cavalry scene, plus five playful bronze foals added later!

1,200 bushes, 100+ sq. meters of grass, and 60 lights surround it—making it sparkle day and night!

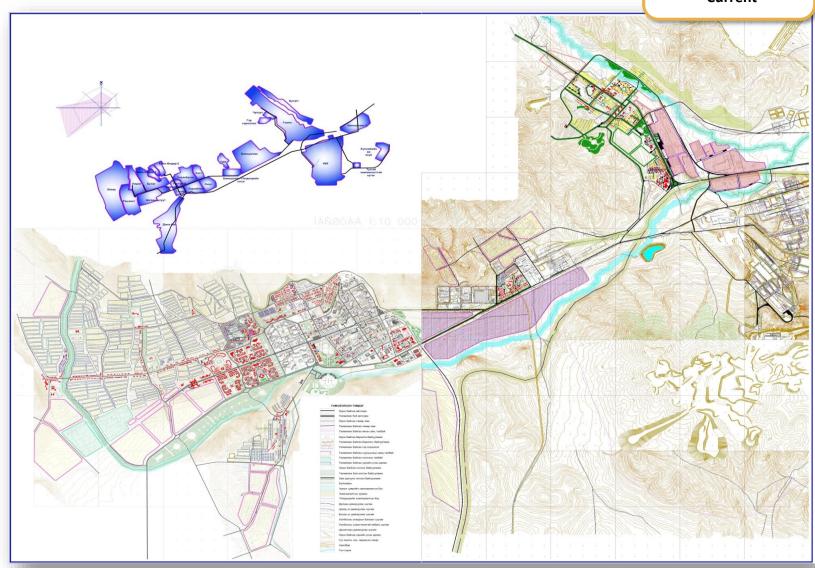
Built in 2006 with 180 million MNT in donations from locals—proving teamwork makes the dream work!

MONGOLIA: ERDENET CITY

Erdenet city city

27827 ha

Current



Erdenet City Land and Population Overview

Land Area: The city's total land boundary covers 27,827 **hectares**.

 Of this, 18,702.8 hectares are designated for urban development.

Population: Erdenet has 104,182 **residents**, which accounts for **2.8%** of the entire country's population.

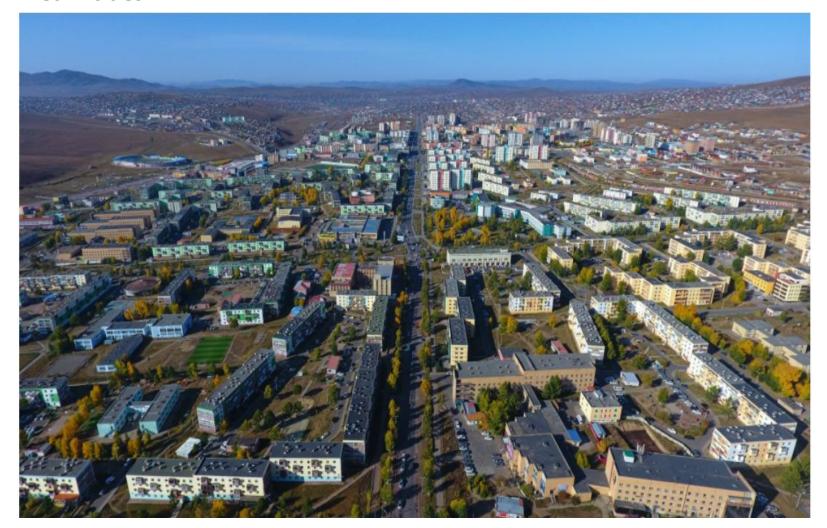
•Green Space: The average green space per person is 9.8 square meters.

Geography & Location:

Erdenet, city, northern Mongolia. It lies in a valley between the Selenga (Selenge) and Orhon (Orkhon) rivers about 150 miles (240 km) northwest of Ulaanbaatar. Erdenet is a major industrial centre that was organized in 1973 and built in the mid-1970s as a joint Soviet-Mongolian venture. Founded mainly to exploit the area's huge deposits of copper and molybdenum ore, Erdenet has a gigantic ore-mining and oredressing complex that began operation in the late 1970s. .

THE FUN FACTS ABOUT THE ERDENET CITY

Erdenet is Mongolia's "Melting Pot"!
Unlike the rest of the country, Erdenet is a vibrant mix of ethnicities



Erdenet is Mongolia's "Melting Pot"!

Mongolians, Russians, Kazakhs, and more—all living together. This cultural blend creates a unique gene pool, and friendly atmosphere.

Regional City Academy for Asia



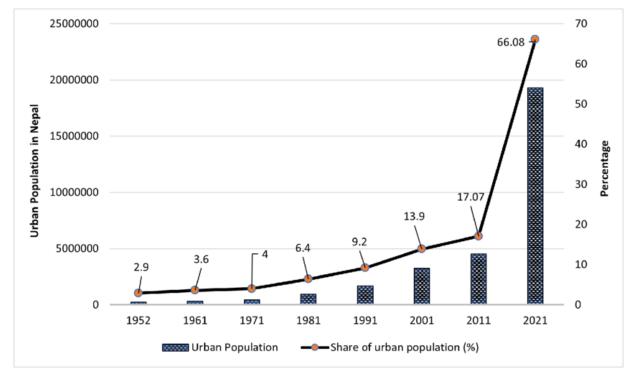
Glimpse of Urban Sector in Nepal

Presented By:

Er. Jhapper Singh VishokarmaActing Project Director, NUGIP

Urban Status: Population

- Nepal's urban population has reached approximately 66.08%,
- 19.29 million people residing in urban areas
- Significant increase from 17.1% in 2011, reflecting a notable trend toward urbanization in the country.
- In contrast, the rural population stands at around 9.86 million, highlighting the growing shift from rural to urban living.



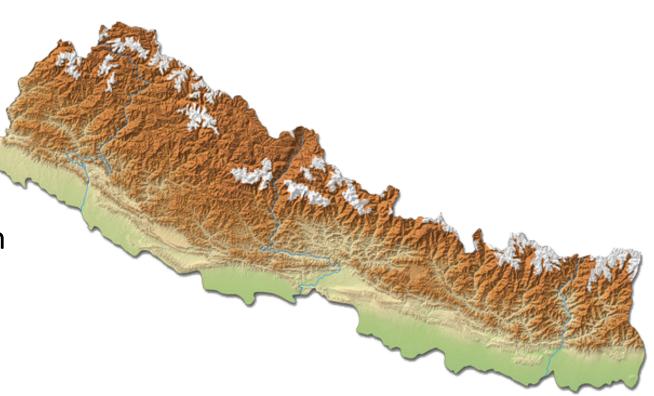
Urban Status: Population

Geographically, the urban population distribution varies:

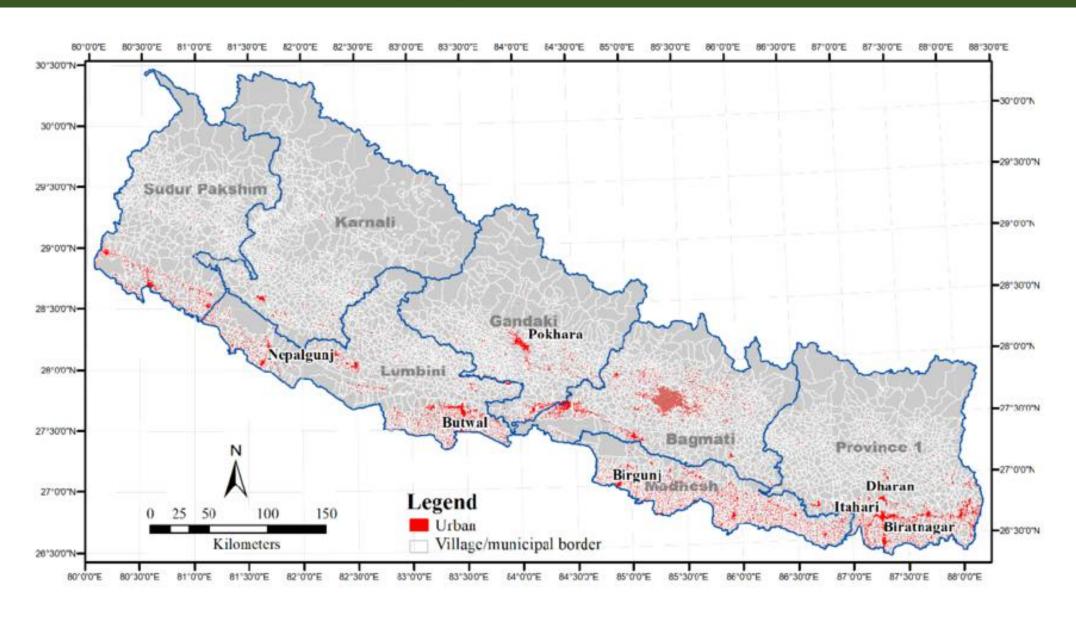
Mountainous region: 35.6% urban

• Hilly region: 63.3% urban

• Terai region: 71.8% urban



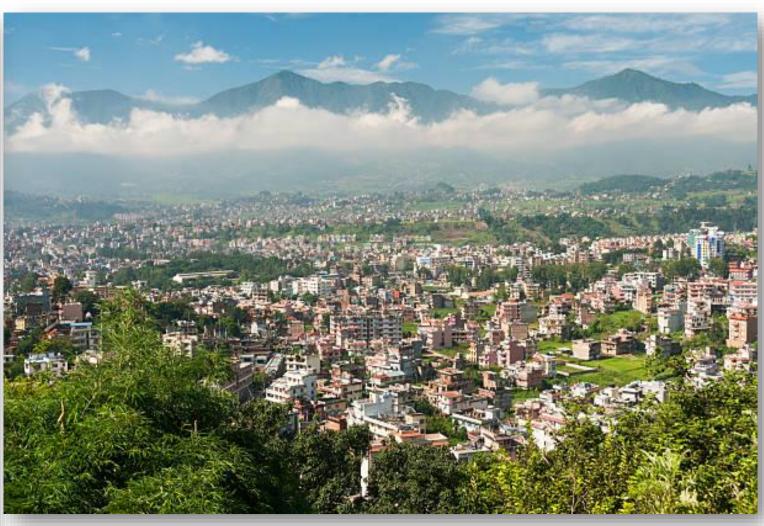
Urban Status: Population (Concentration)



























Pokhara: Tourist Destination



Policy, Plan, & Institution

- 16th Periodic Plan
- National Urban Policy, 2007 & 2024
- National Urban Development Strategy, 2017
- Town Development Act, 1988
- Kathmandu Valley Development Authority Act, 1988
- The Urban Development Act (Draft)
- And many more acts, regulation, bye-laws, and Guildelines

Policy, Plan, & Institution

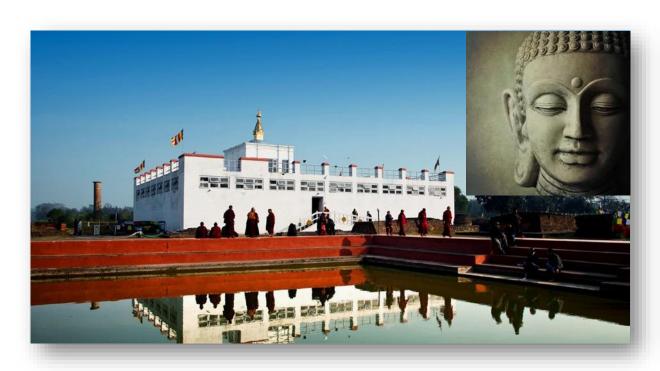
Institutions

- Ministry of Urban Development
- Department of Urban Development and Building Construction

Projects

- Nepal Urban Governance and Infrastructure Projects (33 Municipalities)
- Regional Urban Development Project (4 Municipalities)
- New Town Project (53 New Towns including smart cities)

Nepal















Regional City Academy for Asia



Philippines

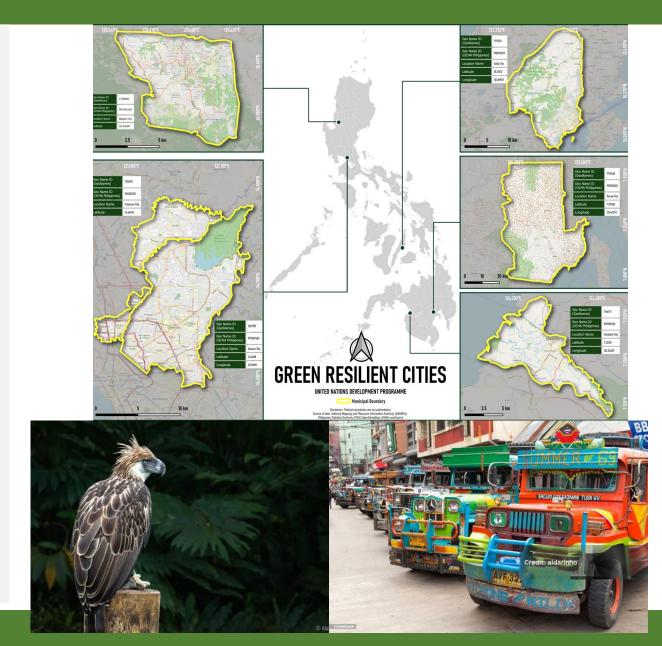
Urban Stats

- Urban population: 54% (58.93 million as of 2020)

☐ GEF Program Involvement

- GEF-8 CHILD project
- Relevant themes: Nature-positive, low carbon development, integrated urban development planning

- The Philippines is made up of over 7,600 islands, making it one of the largest archipelagos in the world, with 149 urban cities;
- It is one of the 17 megadiverse countries in the world, home to a vast array of flora and fauna, many of which are endemic to the islands.
- Jeepneys: These colorful and iconic modes of public transportation were originally made from surplus military jeeps left by the Americans after World War II.

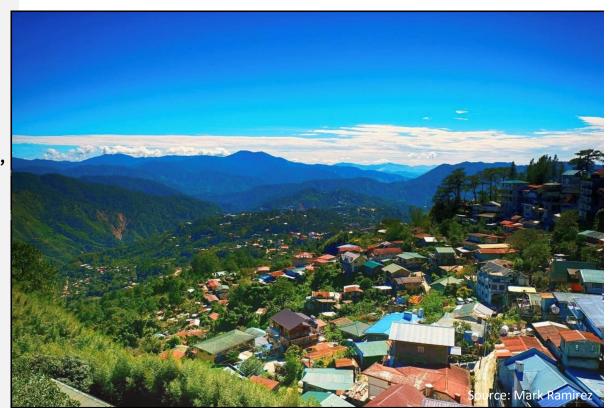


Baguio City

□ Urban Stats

- Urban population: 366,358 persons as of 2020 census.

- Baguio City, known as the "Summer Capital of the Philippines," is unique due to its cool climate and pine trees, which contribute to its "City of Pines" moniker.
- Baguio is significantly cooler than other areas in the Philippines, averaging 8 degrees Celsius cooler than lowland areas.
- Baguio City was designed by American architect and urban planner Daniel Burnham in the early 1900s. His plan emphasized wide streets, parks, and green spaces, reflecting American garden city ideals.



Caloocan City

Urban Stats

- Urban population: 1,661,584 people persons as of 2020 census

- The name "Caloocan" comes from the Tagalog word "lo-óc," meaning "bay".
- Caloocan is one of the most populous cities in the Philippines.
- The city hosts several economic zones and industrial areas, which have attracted businesses and contributed to its economic development.
- It is an important transportation hub in Metro Manila. It is serviced by major roads, such as EDSA and the North Luzon Expressway, which facilitate the movement of people and goods. The city is also served by the LRT-1, which connects it to other parts of Metro Manila.



Cebu City

Urban Stats

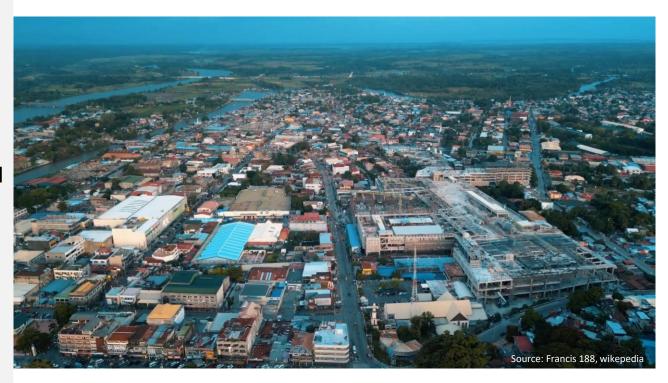
- Urban population: 964,169 persons as of 2020 census

- Cebu City is the oldest city in the Philippines and was the first Spanish settlement in the country.
- It is often referred to as the "Queen City of the South," is a major urban center in the Philippines with a rich history and dynamic urban development.
- Cebu is considered the country's design capital and is a hub for multimedia arts and IT outsourcing.
- It is a popular tourist destination with numerous beaches, diving spots, and attractions.



Cotabato City

- □ Urban Stats
 - Urban population: 325,079 persons as of 2020 census
- ☐ Fun Fact or Trivia (optional to visually highlight)
- Cotabato City is considered the ancient capital of Mindanao due to the introduction of Islam by Shariff Kabunsuan in the 16th century
- It has long been an important hub in Mindanao. It served as a trading post for Chinese, Malays, and native tribes even before the Spanish colonization.
- The city's population is a mix of different ethnic groups, including Maguindanaons, Tausugs, Maranaos, and settlers from other parts of the Philippines.



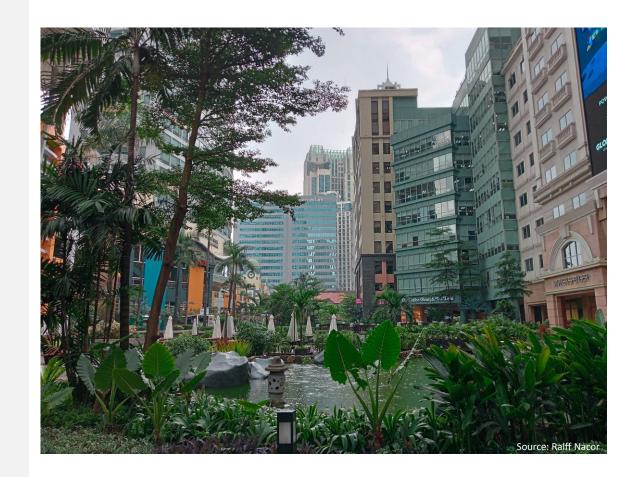
Davao City

- Urban Stats
 - Urban population: 1,776,949 persons as of 2020 census
- ☐ Fun Fact or Trivia (optional to visually highlight)
- Davao City, nicknamed the "Durian Capital of the Philippines;
- It's the largest city in the Philippines in land area (2,444 square kilometer.) and one of the largest in the world, making it a truly unique place to explore
- Part of Mt. Apo Natural Park, highest peak in the Philippines, is located in Davao City



Quezon City

- □ Urban Stats
 - Urban population: 2,960,048 persons as of 2020 census
- ☐ Fun Fact or Trivia (optional to visually highlight)
- Quezon City was the former capital of the Philippines from 1948 to 1976
- The city's original master plan was designed by American architects and planners
- The city is home to several business districts, including Eastwood City, a mixed-use development that combines residential, commercial, and recreational spaces. It is one of the first IT parks in the Philippines and a model for urban mixed-use development.



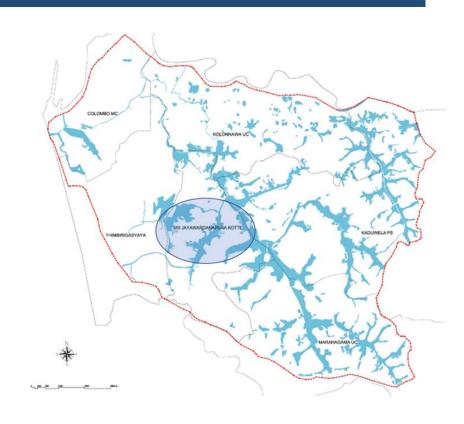
Regional City Academy for Asia



Sri Lanka

1. Sri Lanka – Urban Statistics

- Sri Lanka Urban Population Paradox:
 - As per 2012 census (last census) ≈ 3.704 (18.2%)
 - As per agglomeration Index estimates ≈ 35% 45%
 - Projected in 2050: ≈ 60%
- Colombo and Western Region Megapolis (WRM), which incudes the Sri Jayawardhanapura Kotta (SJK) Municipality (the focus of the project), is the largest urban conurbation with 25% of total country's population.
- As the economic hub of the country this area is expanding rapidly. This puts pressure
 on the environment, especially its water bodies, and generates significant GHG
 emissions.
- This rapid urban transition calls for effective and integrated urban planning at all levels of government.
- WRM is also declared as the wetland urban areas and hence shifting urban development trends into an integrated low carbon approach will lead the city towards maintaining its wetlands and green spaces as well grow sustainability, impacting about 30-40% of population of Sri Lanka by 2050.



WRM wetland map with SJK highlighted

2. Scope of the Sri Lanka SC project

- Component 1. Supporting integrated and inclusive urban planning, strategies, and policy development
 - Develop, based on current mandates and coordination mechanisms, recommendations for strengthening coordination at urban planning, project development, and project implementation within Municipal boundaries.
 - Integrated plan, building on UDA Development Plan for Kotte, on land use including zoning for wetland protection, mobility plan including NMT plan for Kotte.
 - Develop GHG Inventory for Kotte MC area and strengthen data collection systems for regular update of GHG inventory.
 - Policy and Regulatory framework for strengthening E-bus uptake for public transport.
- Component 2. Promoting investments in sustainable, nature positive and resilient urban development and adopting innovative financing mechanisms
 - Integrated wetland conservation approach using nature-based solutions promoting private sector partnership in integrated wetland and transport infrastructure and NBS based green wetland protection corridor
 - Sustainable Transport Facilitate pilot and scale up of e-bus with public private partnership

2. Scope of the Sri Lanka SC project

- Component 3. Strengthening knowledge sharing and capacity-building
 - Training of urban planners and policy makers on integrated planning and GHG inventories based on project experience.
 - Training of private bus owners and transport policy makers on e-bus policy and regulatory tools and financing.
 - Training of urban planners and government staff related to urban planning and implementation on NBS based integrated approaches for wetlands and greenspace management.
 - Participation in various Global Project training and peer to peer exchange events.
 - The training and knowledge sharing events will ensure equal participation and access to male and females.
- Component 4. Monitoring and Evaluation

Regional City Academy for Asia



Singapore

Singapore: Urban Highlights and Fun Facts

Participating Cities: Singapore (with map or visual locator)

Urban Stats

Urban population: 5.9mil

Area: 735.7 square kilometers

Vegetation covers: 56% of total land area

☐ Fun Fact or Trivia (optional to visually highlight)

- One of only three city states in the world, alongside Monoca and Vatican
- One of the greenest city states in the world City in Nature!
- Multicultural society Chinese, Malay, Indian and Eurasian
- Global financial hub and home to one of the world's best airports, Changi Airport
- Fine city Chewing gum is banned in Singapore!





China: Urban Highlights and Fun Facts



China

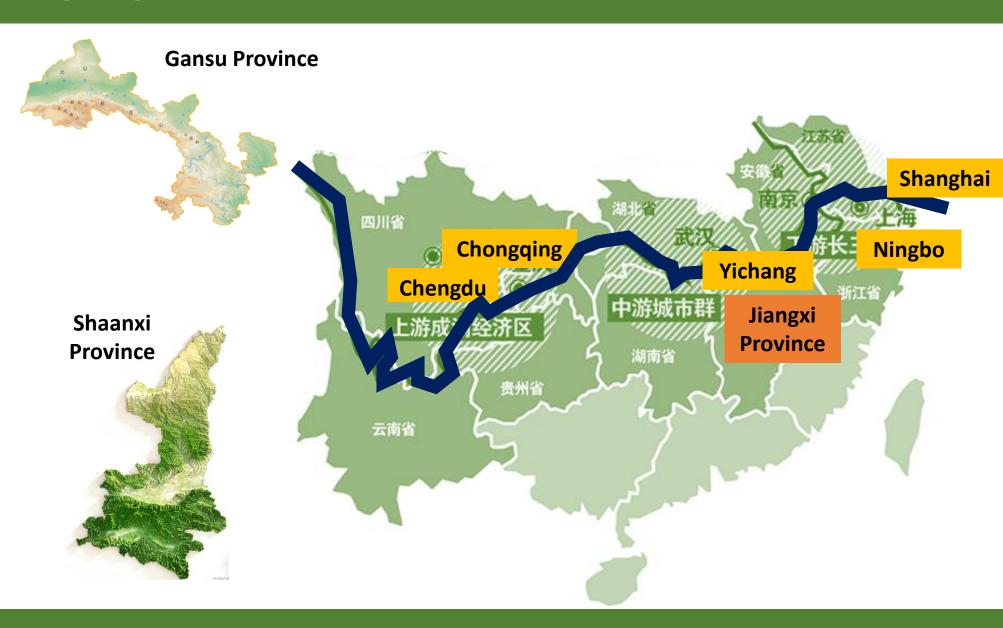
Presented By:

Ms. Chyi-Yun HUANG | 黄琪芸 Senior Urban Specialist China and Mongolia GPURL Coordinator World Bank

China: Urban Highlights and Fun Facts

5 cities & 1 province are along China's Yangzi River;

2 provinces in northwest China



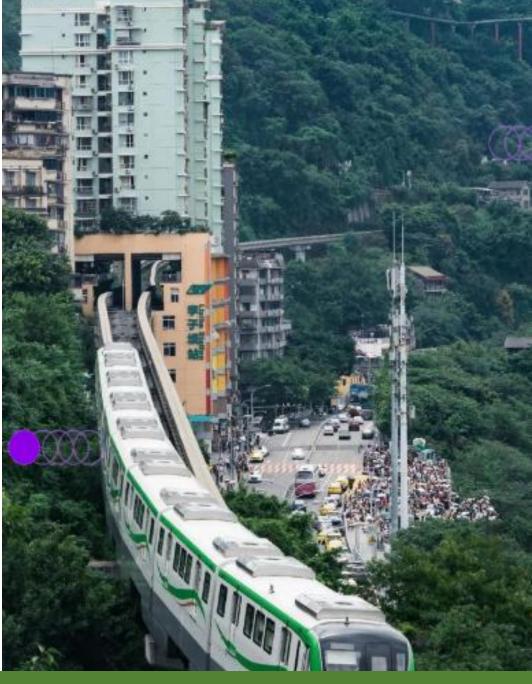
China: Urban Highlights and Fun Facts

	City					Province		
	Chongqing	Shanghai	Chengdu	Ningbo	Yichang	Jiangxi	Shaanxi	Gansu
Urban population (mil)	31.9	24.8	17.35	9.78	3.93	45.02 (11 cities)	39.53 (10 cities)	24.58 (12 cities & 2 autonomous prefectures)
Area (sqkm)	~ 82,400	6,340.5	1,057.5 (city); 14,335 (metro area)	9,816	21,200	166,900	205,624	425,800
Green cover (% total area)	44.47%	39%	42%	34%	45.47%	Nanchang - 41.11 %	Xi-an – 43.64%	Lanzhou - 40.51%

Chongqing 🌶 🔥

- ☐ GEF Program Involvement
 - GEF-7 projects
 - Carbon-neutral planning, biodiversity, GI, mitigate UHI
- ☐ Fun Fact or Trivia
 - Mountainous Urban Jungle With 80% bridges and tunnels in its expressways (like the Chongqing-Hunan route), the city is a feat of engineering in rugged terrain
 - **Heatwaves**: Even at 2 AM, temperatures can stay above 35°C. Night markets thrive with spicy hotpot (locals believe sweating cools you down!)





- Since 2021, the number of parks in Shanghai has increased by more than 1000 by 2025.
- Shanghai Metro holds three "world No.1" titles: longest operational mileage, largest train fleet, and most extensive fully-automated driverless network.
- As of 2024, Shanghai has more than 9,500 coffee shops, making it the city with the largest number of coffee shops in the world.
- Shanghai implemented mandatory garbage sorting and recycling city- wide on July 1, 2019. It is now aiming to build a zero-waste city.

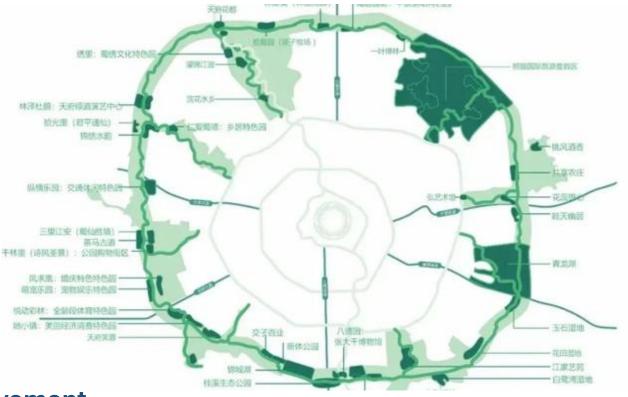


Chengdu





Sichuan Province



- ☐ GEF Program Involvement
 - GEF-7 projects
 - Carbon-neutral planning, biodiversity, wetland
- ☐ Fun Fact or Trivia
 - **Giant Panda Corridors** Urban expansion includes "eco-bridges" and green belts to protect wildlife habitats, ensuring pandas can move safely between reserves.
 - Park City: 18,000+ ha Parks & Green space (incl. 160+ urban parks)



Ningbo,

Zhejiang Province

☐ GEF Program Involvement

- GEF-5、6、7 projects
- Carbon-neutral planning, biodiversity, GI,

- A city of Coastal & Mountain Scenery: Vast coastal areas with beautiful seaside landscapes.
- Private enterprises are a major driver of Ningbo's economy, it has a leading Role in Economic Development. Ningbo is famous for its business-friendly environment.





Yichang 1/2 , Hubei Province

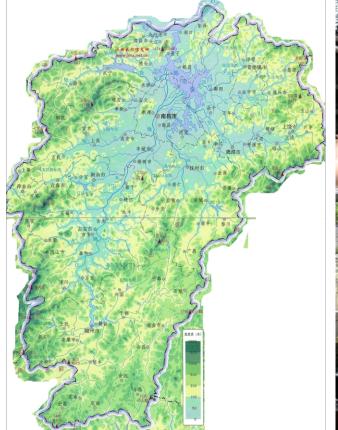
- Known as the "Hydroelectric Capital of the World", is home to the Three Gorges Dam and Gezhouba Dam, thriving on its abundant water resources.
- Eco-Corridor Hub The Yangtze River and Three Gorges region shape Yichang's "high-west, loweast" ecosystem value split, with forests contributing 80% of total ecological benefits

Jiangxi Province

☐ GEF Program Involvement

- GEF-6 projects (Nanchang)
- Theme: TOD

- Boyang Lake, the largest freshwater lake in China. It's called the "Shapeshifter" Lake as it dramatically transforms with the seasons: In summer: Expands to 4,125 km², while in winter, Shrinks to 300 km², revealing vast "grasslands" and winding river channels
- Jingdezhen, the world-renowned "Porcelain Capital," is located in Jiangxi Province and has shaped global ceramic art for centuries. Today, Jingdezhen remains a vibrant hub where tradition meets innovation, attracting artists, collectors, and travelers drawn to its enduring legacy as the heart of porcelain civilization.





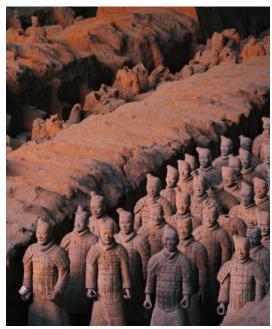




Shaanxi Province

- Fun Fact or Trivia
 - The Qinling Mountains in Shaanxi Province form China's key northsouth divide, shaping climate, culture, and biodiversity. These lush mountains shelter rare wildlife and rich forests, making them a natural treasure of biodiversity.
 - Located in Shaanxi Province, the Terra Cotta Warriors are largescale, lifelike and exquisite. They are world famous cultural heritage asset, and an outstanding representation of ancient military arts.



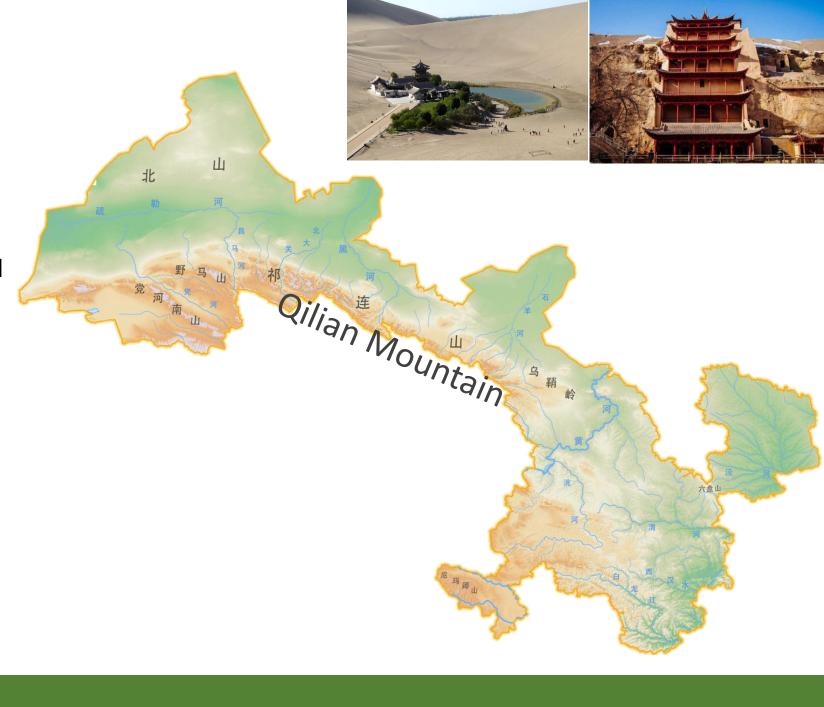




Topographic Map of Shaanxi Province

Gansu Province

- Gansu Province boasts a wealth of cultural and tourism resources, serving as a golden segment of the ancient Silk Road. Home to world-renowned landmarks such as the Mogao Grottoes of Dunhuang and the mesmerizing Mingsha Mountain.
- Gansu Province has diverse terrain is equally striking—from the majestic Qilian Mountains stretching westward to vast deserts, lush grasslands, and dramatic canyons, Gansu offers breathtaking landscapes that captivate every traveler.





Beijing

- Fun Fact or Trivia
 - Olympics— Beijing is the first city in the world to host both the Summer and Winter Olympics! It hosted the Summer Games in 2008, and the Winter Games in 2022, making it a unique dualseason Olympic host
 - The Forbidden City- Beijing's ancient imperial palace, is rumored to have 9,999.5 rooms—just shy of the mythical 10,000 believed to reside in the heavens. The half-room symbolizes humility before the celestial realm. (While the exact count is debated, it remains one of the world's largest palace complexes!)





- Fun Fact or Trivia
 - "The Shanghai of the North"-Tianjin was once dubbed this nickname due to its bustling trade, European-style architecture, and cosmopolitan vibe from foreign concessions in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The Five Great Avenues area still boasts over 2,000 historic Western-style buildings!
 - Ancient Salt Trade Hub: For centuries,
 Tianjin thrived as a salt production and
 trading center. The Tanggu Salt Field
 Museum showcases its salty legacy, with
 some salt pans still in use today.
 - City of Bridges: With over 20 bridges spanning the Haihe River, Tianjin is nicknamed the "Bridge Museum." Each has a unique design, from the iconic Jiefang Bridge (Art Deco) to the modern Dagu Bridge.



GPSC Regional City Academy for Asia in Guangzhou, China

Key Reflection Questions for Participants

- What are your main takeaways from this academy? (maximum. 3)
- ➤ How would you integrate them in your city strategies/plans/projects?

Regional City Academy for Asia



Colombia



Bogota, My City, My Home

Vanessa Velasco, Secretaria Distrital del Hábitat



SECRETARÍA DEL HÁBITAT







Bogota faces increasing climate challenges, such as floods, heat waves and a recent water crisis that led to the implementation of water rationing.

In response the city is promoting resilient and inclusive arban level housing that seeks not only to mitigate the impacts of climate change, but also to strengthen the city's capacity to recover from them.

This approach is materialized through comprehensive policies and planning instruments that strengthen essential services, reduce territorial vulnerabilities, and expand equitable access to opportunities.











Background

Colombia



- Area: 1'142.000 km2.
- **Population:** 53.1 million inhabitants. 18.8 million **households.**
- **Population Density: 46** inhabitants per km2.
- GDP per Capita; 18,7 million.



Colombia is a middle-income country with significant social and economic challenges.

Bogotá

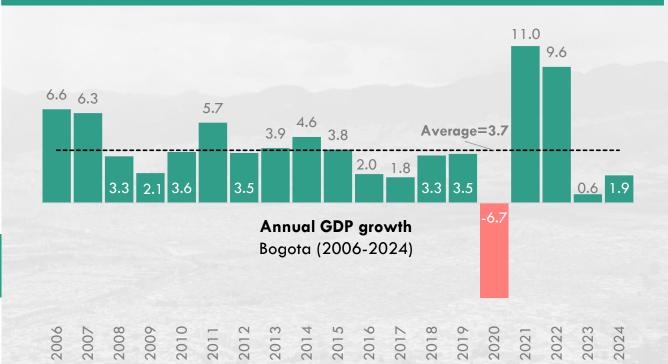


- Area: 1.775 km2. 82,7% rural area.
- **Population:** 8'101.412 inhabitants. 3'151.429 households.
- Bogota: 15% of Colombia's population. lives in Bogotá.
- Urban Population. 99%.
- Population Density: 4.564 inhabitants per km2.



Bogota is highly urbanized, in contrast to the fact that most of its territory is rural.

Economic and Social Context - Bogota





Bogota's GDP represents 25 % of the country's economy.

2

GDP per capita is \$33 million (US\$7,897). 3

4

The unemployment rate in 2024 in Bogota was 9.7 % with a labor informality rate of 34..5%

The Construction
Sector grew 10.8%
with positive Impact
on the PIB.

Vulnerabilities

High Climate Risk

- 30% of the City is build on informal conditions
- More than 200 emergency events associated to climate change in 2024
- Water Shortage due to the Niño Phenomenon
- Pressure on the ecologic structures
- 30% of the city with high risk on flooding

Bogota as the 2nd most vulnerable city in the country

Living and Social Economic Conditions

- Housing Deficit 336.000 (11%)
- **Deficit of effective public space** of 4.79 m2 per inhabitant.
- Gaps in coverage in the Public Sectors. 20 % of households require coverage in rural areas

Beyond income capacity, the lack of access to basic services, housing, education, health, or even public space constitutes factors of social, environmental, cultural, and economic inequality.





Infrastructure investment

\$5.6 M USD

Development Plan 2024-2027

300.000 jobs

Throughout the execution of all current projects and new ones included in the PDD 2024-2027

Total Infrastructure Investment

\$15.1 M USD

Bogotá Metro Line 2: \$8.2 M USD

Canoas WWTP: \$1.5 M USD



Regional City Academy for Asia

City Introduction



















