

Foreword

While cities in Asia and the Pacific have been concentrating on their conventional infrastructure requirements, many cities are still discovering how to deal with the challenge of urban renewal in a broader sense. Many cities in the region do own old or historic inner-city areas of considerable historic and cultural value. These city centers are not only valuable old assets but opportunities for revitalization of local economic development and national cultural identity. The cases of Ha Noi, Jakarta, and Manila, presented in this publication on *Revitalization of Historic Inner-City Areas in Asia*, demonstrate that inner-city areas and urban heritage assets can become important opportunities for public and private investments with a good potential for bankable and profitable public-private partnership projects. Urbanizing Asia in the 21st century requires a fresh look at urban renewal and historic inner cities, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has a role to play in this area.

To increase opportunities for urban revitalization and renewal in pursuing inclusive growth under ADB's Long-Term Strategic Framework 2020, the Urban Community of Practice in ADB is of the opinion that urban development activities need to include more rigorous knowledge sharing with developing member countries on good practices, innovative development tools and approaches. In this regard, the Urban Community of Practice of ADB is happy to present another contribution under its *Urban Development Series* which will contribute to spearhead knowledge contribution toward the challenges of historic inner city areas in Asia and the Pacific.

We hope this series will encourage discussion on the sustainable development of Asian cities, and help develop forward-looking urban policies and practices to manage the challenges ahead.



Hun Kim
Chair, Urban Community of Practice
Asian Development Bank

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Florian Steinberg
Senior Urban Development Specialist
Southeast Asia Department
Asian Development Bank
fsteinberg@adb.org

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Abbreviations

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
EA	–	executing agency
HABITAT II	–	Second United Nations Habitat Conference on Human Settlements
IA	–	implementing agency
IADB	–	Inter-American Development Bank
NGO	–	nongovernment organization
PRC	–	People's Republic of China
SMEs	–	small and medium-sized enterprises
TA	–	technical assistance
UNESCO	–	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Note

In this publication, "\$" refers to US dollars.