

## GREEN CITY ACTION PLANS (GCAP)

The CIMT with the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) assist the cities of Melaka (Malaysia), Songkhla (Thailand) and Medan (Indonesia) to develop comprehensive Green City Action Plans, which, it is hoped, will be emulated by other cities within the subregion and beyond in the near future.



Source: Map derived from the IMT-GT Implementation Blueprint 2012-2016

The process of moving from business-as-usual towards a livable city starts with an assessment of existing conditions. Equally important is forging a clear and concise vision for a city's future, building consensus amongst an array of key stakeholders to ensure there is broad support for the city's transformation.



Stakeholder workshop during the preparation of the GCAP for Melaka

The Malacca Historic City Council won the prestigious Green Apple Award for its efforts to create a more sustainable place for the future generation.



Experts and decision-makers from Melaka, Malaysia and the ADB came together to facilitate the preparation of the Green City Action Plan for Melaka

Through this process, key actions are prioritized and encapsulated in a Green City Action Plan (GCAP), which sets forth short, medium and long term recommendations on green city investments covering integrated urban development, environment and climate resilience, and energy and resource efficient urban infrastructure and services. Plans also identify an investment program and financing mechanisms to achieve balanced growth in a community, and they actively promote integrated decision-making through more robust planning.

## MOVING FORWARD ON THE IMT-GT GREEN CITIES INITIATIVE

Successful implementation of GCAP requires:

- Strong coordination between multiple government agencies, the private sector, community organizations and citizens;
- An adaptive management approach where the actions can be modified if needed, pursuant to monitoring, data analysis and citizen feedback;
- Capacity building efforts;
- Identification of funding sources, and a facility to raise capital; and
- Database and other tools to keep track of plan implementation.

An important first step for every city is developing institutional mechanisms to implement the action plan, and establishing a GCAP Committee. Quality data

The Mayor of Kitakyushu welcomes a knowledge exchange visit from a Malaysian delegation to learn from their experience on green cities development



The Chief Minister inaugurates a solar farm reflecting his commitment towards supporting Melaka's vision to become a green technology state by 2020.

collection is also crucial for establishing a baseline database that can inform decision making. Actions must be prioritized, and sources of financing must be identified for implementation to effectively commence. Recently, Urban Management Partnerships have been introduced to facilitate peer-to-peer learning for cities, and to support the development of core capacities, skills and knowledge at both the national and local levels.

Photo Credits: Amit Prothi; Malacca Green Technology Corporation

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# GREEN CITIES INITIATIVE

Asia's cities are growing at breakneck speed. The Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle's (IMT-GT) Green Cities Initiative prioritizes sustainable development for the subregion. The goal? Vibrant, livable cities that are environmentally appealing, economically competitive and socially inclusive.

The IMT-GT's green cities initiative promotes a paradigm shift—where cities pursue integrated urban development and environmental planning as they make a transition to a cleaner, greener, and more prosperous future.



## THE NEED FOR GREEN CITIES

In recent decades, Asian cities have provided better economic opportunities and higher standards of living for millions of people. However, these benefits have often come at very high environmental and social costs. Ever-growing numbers of residents, inadequate infrastructure, worsening traffic, polluted air, contaminated rivers, and rising inequalities are just a few of many challenges cities must contend with. Increasing affluence and growing urban populations are likely to further increase resource consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, and without dramatic changes, cities' problems will likely worsen—livability will further decline, and economic productivity will suffer.



Rising affluence will shift motorcycle riders towards cars and could increase congestion in urban roadways.

## NO MORE BUSINESS AS USUAL

Letting urbanization continue along its present course is no longer an option. For cities to economically thrive, and their people to prosper, challenges such as shrinking green space, traffic congestion, water shortages, and flood risks have to be reduced. Cities wanting to change face an array of challenges. Limited financial resources, outdated policies, and low implementation capacities all hinder city governments' ability to effectively manage growth or provide infrastructure at the pace of urban development. Uncoordinated decision-making can further limit the impact of projects, and the efficient use of resources.

**Cities consume almost 75% percent of earth's natural resources, and are responsible for more than 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions**

## WHAT IS A GREEN CITY?

While green cities feature parks and other green spaces that offer residents a reprieve from asphalt and urban sprawl, they are much more than this. Green cities balance the need for economic growth with people's need for well-being, and a city's long-term future. They embrace low carbon growth to remain competitive, and to enhance livability for all residents. They are resilient, inclusive, and manage natural resources well.

Key pillars of green city development include:



**The Environment:** Quality natural resource management ensures the sustainability of land, water and air; low carbon technologies and practices are utilized to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and disaster risk management is employed to reduce vulnerabilities to natural hazards and climate change impacts.



Solar panels are integrated in walkways to increase the production of electricity from renewable sources.



**Economic Competitiveness:** Municipal infrastructure is expanded, service delivery is improved, and operations and maintenance are carried out effectively. New opportunities for revenue generation are explored. Cities also promote entrepreneurship and jobs, with particular focus on green industries.



Incinerator Facility is focused on recycling waste by combusting refuse at high temperatures. Thermal energy generated during refuse treatment is utilized for electric power generation that is reused in the facility, as well as sold to the local private utility company.



**Equity:** Cities partner with civil society, residents, the private sector, learning institutions, and other stakeholders to identify and implement solutions to enhance livability for all residents.



Promotion of traditional, low-carbon technology in the growing tourism sector provides jobs to local residents in Melaka

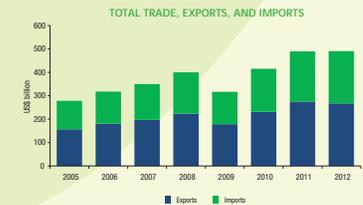
## THE INDONESIA-MALAYSIA-THAILAND GROWTH TRIANGLE (IMT-GT)

The Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle is a sub-regional economic cooperation program composed of 14 provinces in southern Thailand, 8 states of Peninsular Malaysia, and the 10 provinces of Sumatra in Indonesia—an area encompassing over 70 million people bound together by shared economic interests, geographical proximity, and close historical, cultural and linguistic ties.



Melaka has successfully begun the transformation of the Melaka River from a backyard drain into a popular tourist destination through an integrated planning approach.

The IMT-GT focuses on accelerating economic development and prosperity in the subregion through enhanced trade and investment opportunities, tourism, and stronger infrastructure links. The private sector has played and will continue to play a key role in promoting economic cooperation in IMT-GT.



Source of the Basic Data: IMT-GT Trade, Investment, and Tourism Database (IMT-GT data), ADB Key Indicators 2013 (national level data), ASEANstats (ASEAN level data).