

Fast Facts: Urbanization in Asia

- In 2010 Asia's population was 40% urban – 1.6 billion people. Over half of Asia's population will be urban by 2030. Another 1.4 billion people will live in Asia's cities by 2050.
- Urbanization is a multifaceted and complex process, the scale of which is striking. Forty-four million people are added to city populations every year, which is equivalent to 120,000 people each day. These new arrivals require the construction of more than 20,000 new dwellings, 250 km of new roads and additional infrastructure to supply more than 6 megalitres of potable water.
- With up to 80% of GDP today coming from urban areas, the quality and efficiency of Asian cities will determine the region's long-term productivity and overall stability. For example, the urban economy of India will provide 70% of all new jobs and 70% of GDP by 2030 with Delhi's economy being bigger than Malaysia's today.
- Cities occupy only 2% of the world's land, but consume 75% of its resources. They produce a similar percentage of its waste with devastating results on the environment and the health of their citizens. Asian cities are likely to contribute more than half the rise in greenhouse gas emissions over the next 20 years.
- More than half of the world's slum dwellers live in Asia - some 490 million people in 2005 according to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT). If nothing is done that figure may rise to one billion by 2050.
- Most Asian cities do not have effective wastewater treatment systems. In the Philippines, for example, only 10% of wastewater is treated while in Indonesia the figure is 14%, in Viet Nam, 4%, and in India, 9%.
- About 75% of solid waste generated in urban areas is collected, according to estimates, but less than 60% finds its way to a disposal site. Most Asian towns and cities use open dumps and only about 10% of solid waste ends up in properly engineered and managed landfill sites.
- ADB's urban lending, totaling over \$14 billion to date, has focused primarily on infrastructure. In 2011, around 65% of lending has been in urban areas.