Asia Urban Futures Workshop

Shaping solutions to the challenges of tomorrow for Asia's cities
October 14-15, 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand

Purpose: The majority of Asia's population now lives in cities. The percentage of national populations living in urban areas in developing Asia ranges from 15% in Sri Lanka to as high as 74% in Malaysia. While Asia is home to over a dozen megacities with populations of over 10 million, most of the growth in urban dwellers has been occurring in smaller towns and cities. Most of these cities are built along the coast, which makes them vulnerable to the effects of climate change, particularly in countries such as Bangladesh, Vietnam, and the Philippines, which are facing significant climate impacts. The rate of urbanization continues to accelerate while the consequences of climate change, in terms of duration and intensity, are increasing rapidly. Unless we are able to look at these trends and recalibrate our programming, we will be addressing only today's crises and not tomorrow's challenges. The core objective of this workshop is to integrate strategic foresight on urbanization trends and solutions in the development program planning process.

The Urban Futures Workshop will offer leaders a longer and broader view of the future of urbanization and climate change in Asia by looking at different scenarios, models, and forecasts from experts in the field. The workshop will also support partnerships between technology innovators and development planners and implementers. Progressive city planners and development practitioners, including USAID Mission staff, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Habitat and United Nations Global Pulse, will highlight examples of actions already being taken. Technology leaders and innovators will also present transformative approaches to increase urban adaptation and improve urban planning. This important thought leadership event will bring together the technology sector and the development community in a way which has not previously happened, to discuss some of the major challenges and opportunities facing Asia as the result of both rapid urbanization and climate change.

Meeting Goals:
- Highlighting scenarios, models and analyses relevant to urban planning and development in Asia;
- Showcasing best practices and local examples that demonstrate programming new tools and science applications for future trends;
- Directly connecting development practitioners to technology partners, city leaders, futures analysts and others who are applying innovative approaches to building urban resilience;
- Introducing futures analysis and catalyzing actions to apply futures analysis and new S&T tools in development programs and urban governance;
- Strengthening relationships and partnerships on collaborative interventions in urbanization in Asia.

Expected Participation: ~100 people including donor organizations (USAID, UNDP, UN Global Pulse, Rockefeller Foundation, and others), implementing partners, NGOs, key city officials, leading academic thinkers from the US and Asia, and private sector partners.

Draft Agenda Day 1:

	Session
8:00 – 9:00am Event #1	**Opening Plenary**: Welcome and overview of meeting goals and the agenda followed by a high profile private sector speaker.
9:00 – 10:30am Event #2	**The Future of Cities in Asia in 2030:** Setting the scene: Understanding the major trends in urbanization, and why this has implications for development work. Key facts, trends and data. What will cities look like in 2030 and what challenges will they face?
10:30 – 11:00am	**Networking Break**
11:00 – 12:30pm Event #3	**Challenges & Opportunities in Addressing Future Conditions:** Focus on the issues by building onto trends and data presented in the previous session. How urbanization and the shift of populations to cities alters development challenges, including: · The changing face of poverty and inequality; · Resilience (to climate impacts as well as economic and political shocks); · Governance, public administration and service delivery; · Urban sanitation and public health. Address these from a variety of viewpoints (city leaders/city planners, entrepreneurs, civil society, and donor/development practitioners). This session needs to also cover why futures analysis is important given dynamic conditions and challenges faced by cities as a combination of the above to set the stage and lead into the next on approaches.
12:30 – 1:45pm	**Lunch and Informal Networking**
1:45 – 3:00 pm Event #4	**Introduction to Futures Analysis:** Introduce usable approaches in addressing the challenges and opportunities discussed in the previous session. Introduce two broad approaches: 1. Quantitative (data, analytics, bottom-up participatory, etc.) 2. Qualitative (Foresight, scenarios, strategic insights, etc.)
3:00 – 3:30 pm	**Networking Break**
3:30 – 5:00pm Event #5	**Designing for the Future: Using Futures Analysis Perspectives, etc., or big data to address specific development challenges:** Mixed groups of participants (donors, technical resource people, city leaders, civil society, and private entrepreneurs) work together to apply different tools to a small set of development challenges (case studies).

Draft Agenda Day 2:

	Session and Presentations
9:00 – 10:15am Event #6	**Announcement and Presentations of Recognition Prize Winners**
10:15 – 10:45am	**Networking Break**
10:45 – 12:15pm Event #7 Panel	**Transforming Urban Institutions: Use of Innovative Solutions to Improve Urban Planning and Management** Focus on innovative solutions to specific types of challenges, e.g. poverty and economic growth, climate resilience, participatory governance and service delivery. Case studies highlighting institutions that are improving their use of futures analysis, data and technology to improve planning, transparency, and monitoring and evaluation. Discuss constraints and challenges and where similar technologies can be applied.
12:15 – 1:45pm	**Lunch & Informal Networking**
1:45 – 3:00 Event #8	**Innovation Marketplace** Hands-on tools, posters, demos and showcases for innovators (we can have up to 20 posters/models or stations in ARTC).
3:00 – 4:30 Event #9	**Reaching a Preferred Future: Scaling Up the Development Effort** Focus on how to get there from here, contextualizing the ideas that have been generated in existing city administrative and management systems, how to apply these solutions on the ground etc. Present possible vision of a future smart cities drawing on existing leading examples as well as current key S&T trends Mixed groups of participants will share their vision of the future of their cities and explore the opportunities to partner with each other to pilot new efforts or to scale up successful programs.
4:30 – 5:30pm Event #10	**Wrap Up and Next Steps:** Overview of relevant donor funding opportunities; summary of workshop highlights; how to stay in touch.