

Sustaining inclusive development in times of climate change



*Forthcoming!
Asia-Pacific
HDR on
Climate
Change*

Malaysia National Consultation

**United Nations Conference on Sustainable
Development 2012 (Rio +20)**

7-9 October 2011

*Human Development Report Unit
UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre*

The big picture:

Climate change, a threat to hard won gains in human development



- Countries have shored up human development gains through overall economic growth and MDG progress
 - poverty reduction and inclusive growth are still ongoing accompanied by growing emissions
 - societies are facing climate impacts already: sea level rise, changed rainfall, glacial melts, floods, extreme weather
- How Asia-Pacific navigates the prosperity- emissions dilemma will affect not only the region, but also the world

Can growth be sustained as it depletes resources and deteriorates environment?

Asia-Pacific is an economic front-runner... can it chart a prosperous, resilient and lower-emissions future?

Interlinked geographies of ecology and economy



- Dispersed geographies of economic activities enable shifting emissions more towards Asia-Pacific from other manufacturing locations
- Parts of Asia have become export-oriented manufacturing hubs catering to needs of consumers elsewhere, interlinking geographies of emissions, value chains, dispersed producers and consumers
- The good and bad effects can't be contained in borders
- With interlinked world economies, national institutions are ill-equipped to address climate change or even prevent emissions shifting



Counting the human cost



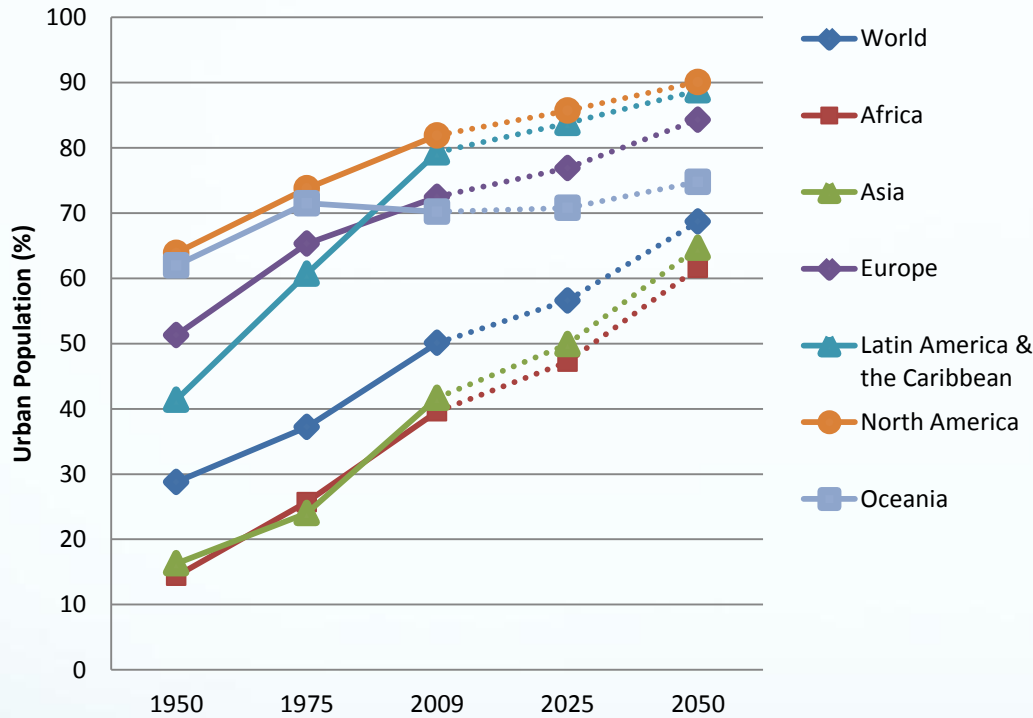
Climate change is global but has specific local impacts

Vulnerability linked to exposure (+) sensitivity (+) adaptive capacity (-)

Asia has around two-thirds of the global undernourished people—**low capacity to adapt from pre-existing deprivations**

Diverse geographical exposure, vulnerable groups range from mountains to the sea

**Growing share of population is becoming urban:
Per cent of urban population by regions, 1950-2050**

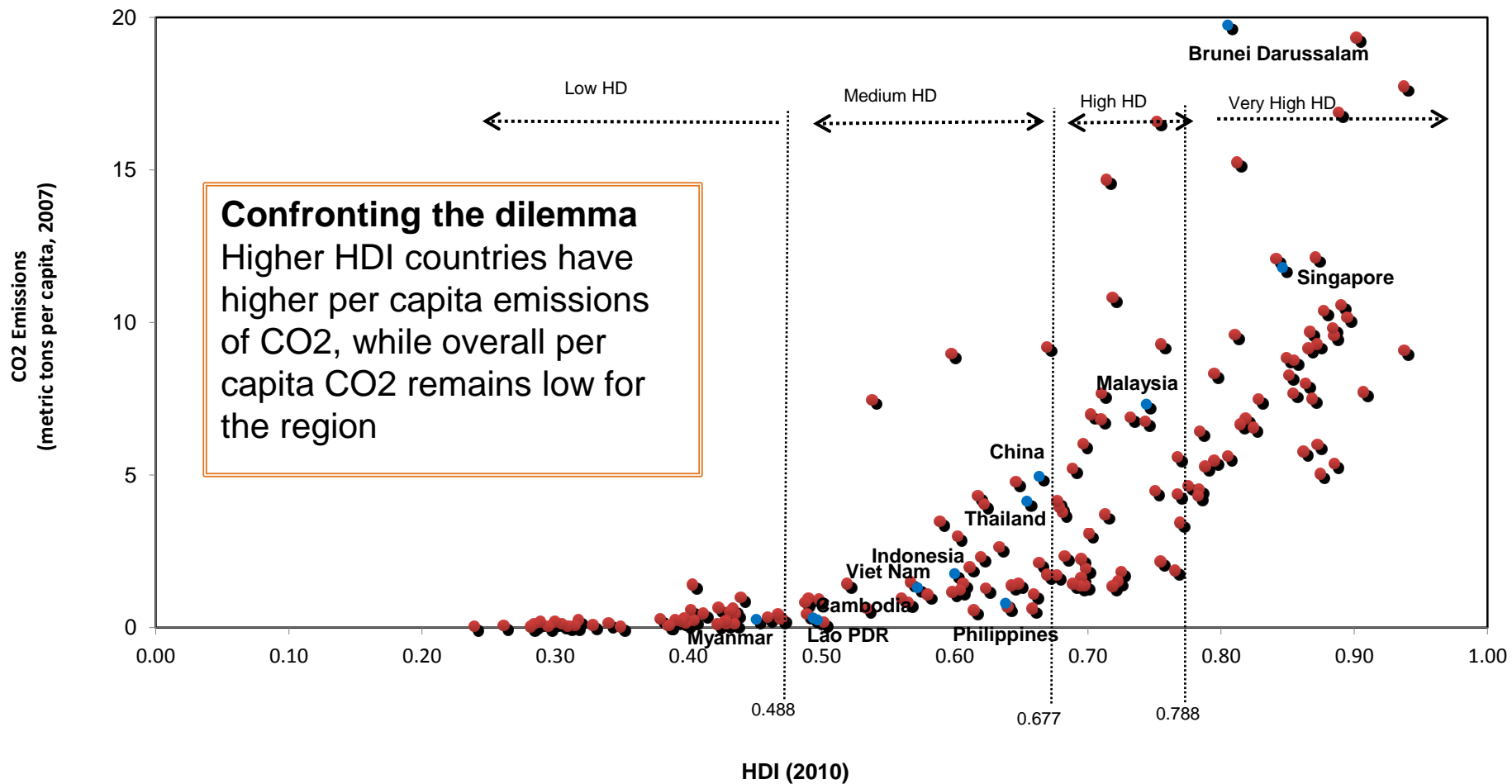


Rural
threats;
and now
urban too...

Source: UNDESA 2011

Vulnerable habitations from dense urbanisation, even as over 60% of Asia Pacific's population is still rural relying almost exclusively on climate sensitive livelihoods

Conventional paths to prosperity remain energy and resource intensive; but can we explore options?



Re-imagining development



- Going beyond mitigation and adaptation dichotomy
- It is no longer a question of choosing between *adjusting* or *reducing*
- Controlling emissions can be seen as a *planned adaptive response*, while building resilience amongst those vulnerable
- Pre existing inequalities will worsen without concerted action on the climate today
- Entry points for CC action can be water/air pollution, waste, traffic



Arenas of transformation



- Producing for the future
- Fair and balanced consumption
- Raising rural resilience
- Building greener cities

***Each arena also triggers emissions, changes land use and
Reduces carbon sequestering***

Producing for the future



UN
DP

- Relook at systems that manufacture goods, grow crops and livestock, and generate energy
- Explore ways to delink economic processes from ecological ones
- Adapt growth strategies towards lower-emission systems that also offer employment opportunities and strengthen adaptive capacity among the poor



Adapting growth strategies towards climate-adept production

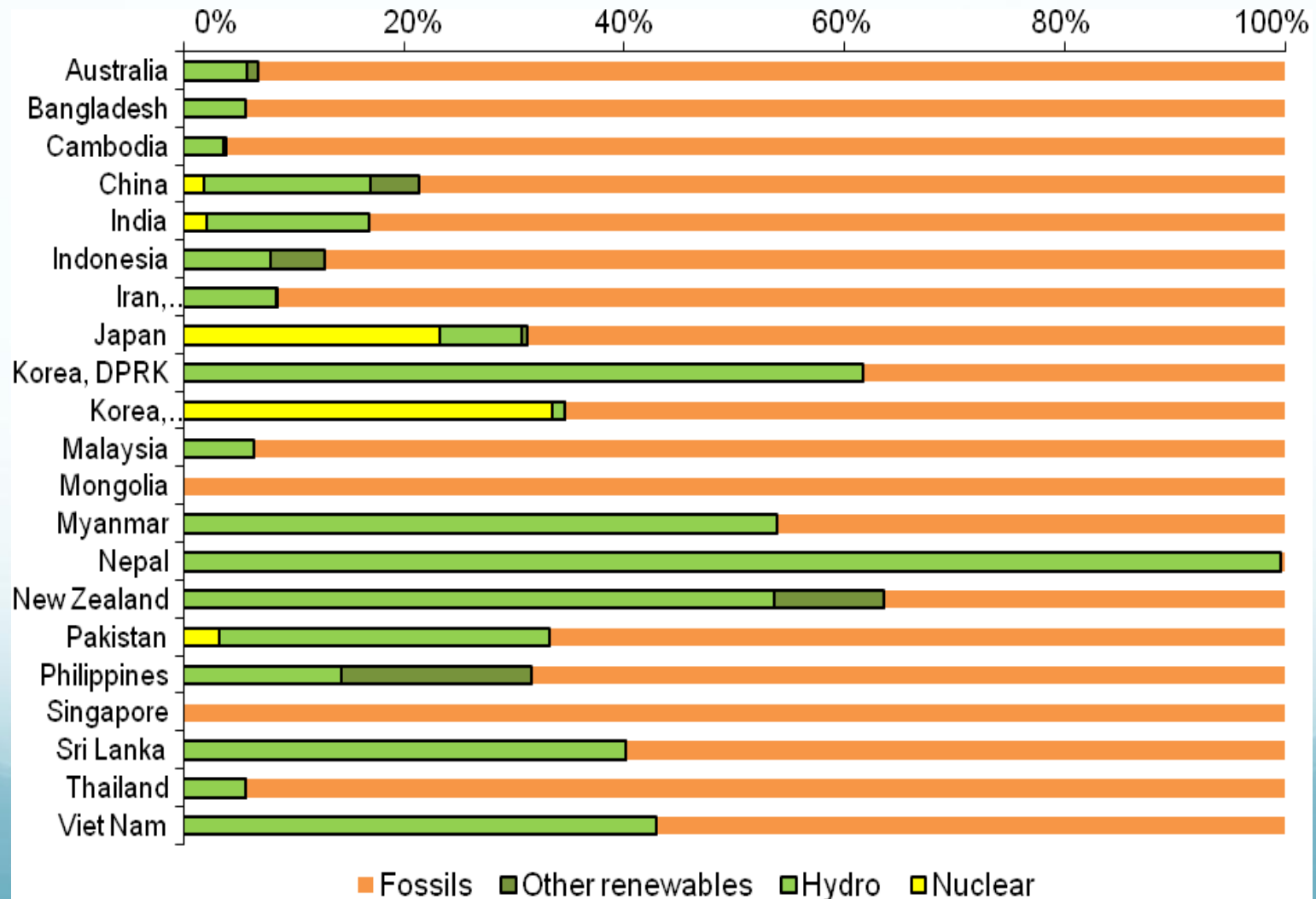


- **Reducing industrial emissions**
- **Greener agriculture**
- **Cleaner energy generation**



A few countries in the region have high use of cleaner renewables for electricity generation

technology creation, spread and finance are essential to harness existing potential



Asia- Pacific confronted by chronic under-consumption but also rising consumption and waste

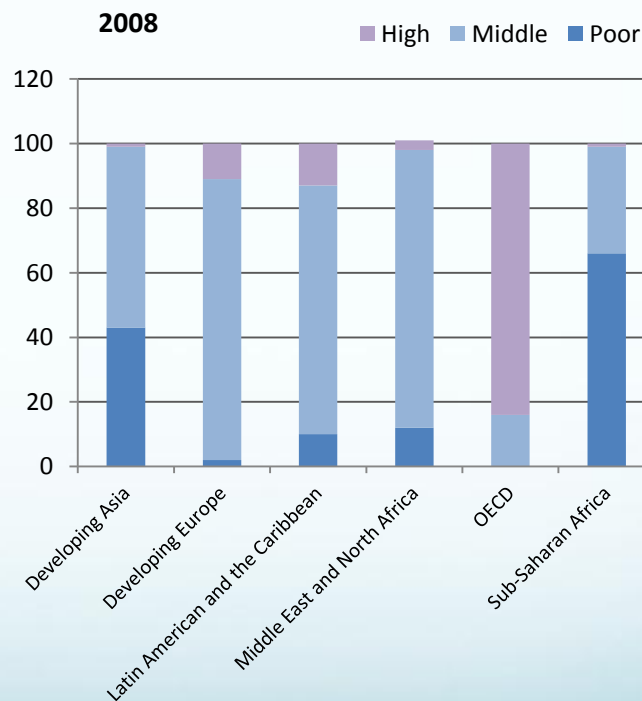
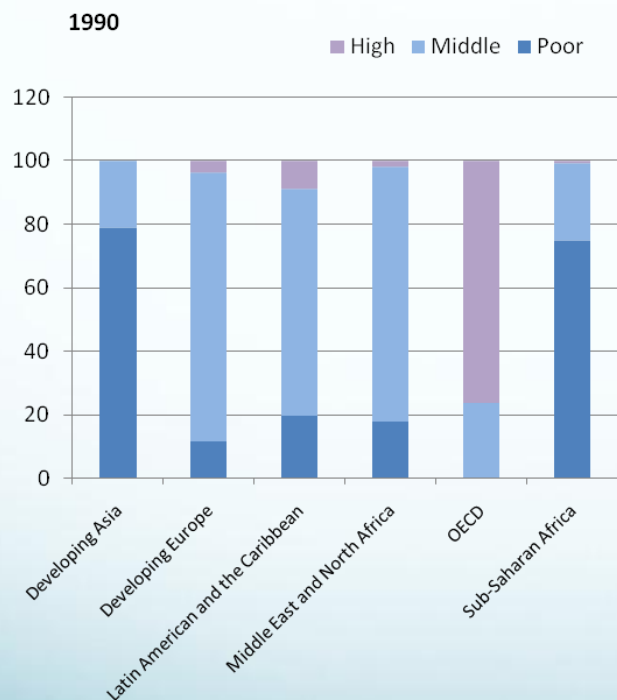


- Millions of people already live below the minimum level of dietary consumption, facing additional threats of climate change
 - Growing incomes....the region has become a vast consumer market
- ...yet widening consumption gaps and rising inequality

Asia's new consumers



A growing middle class
in developing Asia



Rising demand for consumer durables with some energy hot-spots such as cars and air-conditioners; lifestyles are changing and so are diets

Prioritise fairness and balance



Asia-Pacific has to improve living standards in the context of climate change, something that today's developed countries never faced.

Actions on two fronts simultaneously

Improve prospects for the poor, **affordable energy access is essential**—diversified sources, and cover for off-grid new consumers

For those better-off, **adapting includes**

- Increase consumer awareness
- Minimise waste and promote energy efficient lifestyles

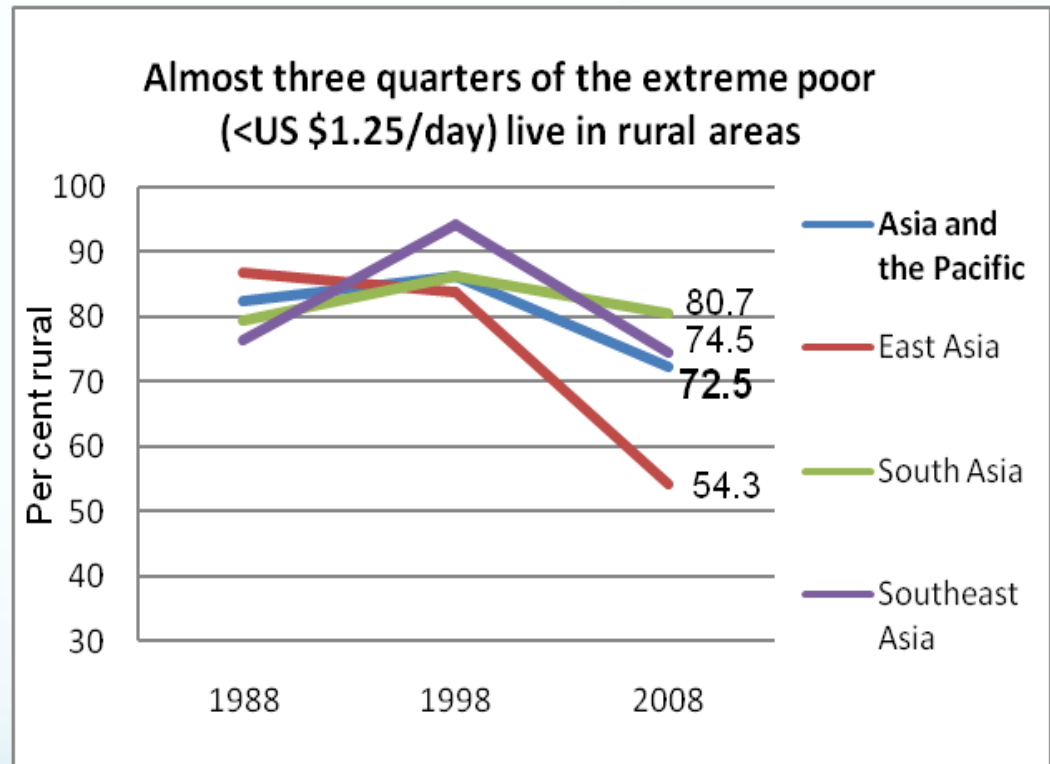


Rural vulnerability remains high

Direct climate impacts



- At the periphery of societies
- Repeated climate shocks trigger strong downward trends in HD and reinforce inequalities



But rural communities also have long experience of coping with variability in weather and climatic patterns— expertise in autonomous adaptation that can be leveraged

Priorities for rural resilience

Embed climate-sensitivity in all regular development



- Combine traditional knowledge with planned investments to better manage future risks
- Focus on training and techniques for more resilient and diversified rural livelihoods; leverage and share innovations in adaptation
- Provide enabling and protective social services and infra, including for DRM
- Social protection for the longterm should include climate impacts—backed by fiscal space and private insurance
- Improve outreach; ICT tools



Towards rural transformation



- **Strengthen local participatory planning** - Local impact requires local knowledge, participation, and coordination for informed decision-making, improve direct access to climate funds
- **Bolster knowledge and awareness** – rural communities need access to credible information on climate change
- **Defend ecosystems** – Ecosystem-based solutions to adaptation will be more effective and affordable; reward local communities for management (REDD+)
- **No-regret investment** - Adaptation will be costly but no adaptation will be much more costly, ‘No-regret’ investment implies what is good for climate responses is good for human lives anyway
- **Harness private sector** - Include rural livelihoods in more stable supply chains and risks management including insurance

Urban climate vulnerability



- **High exposure** - Of the world's top 20 **megacities**, half are in Asia, many **located in low elevation coastal zones**. By 2026, Asia's settlements are poised to be primarily urban
- **Sensitive and low adaptive capacity** – **Asia-Pacific cities are densely populated** and a **high proportion of people live in informal settlements or 'slums'**. South Asia, for example, is higher only than Sub-Saharan Africa in terms of urban pop with access to improved sanitation
- **Interlinked infrastructure** of transport, energy, communications and commerce can be simultaneously hit, **disrupting lives, livelihoods, wealth, public assets**
- Cities, especially poor inhabitants, are extremely exposed to climate impacts (flooding, heat, sea level rise) and have **limited capacity to adapt**

City emissions



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D P

- Globally, **cities occupy only two per cent of land but contribute more than 2/3 of greenhouse gases.** Processes of urbanization also contribute to land use changes which reduce carbon sequestration and reduce urban green spaces.
- Cities emissions stem from **energy use, transport, buildings and waste**
- Regular and systematic **city inventories of GHGs** remain a serious data gap for policy
- Cities are home to **growing consumers who are driving up emissions through their choices in travel, housing, energy use and waste management**

Building greener cities



- **Cities provide avenues for change too** being centers for wealth, commerce, politics and ideas; interlinked infrastructures of communications, energy, transport means coordination for results can be easier
- Account for **new climate change stresses in existing urban poverty reduction strategies**, aimed especially in more vulnerable slum areas
- National governments can deepen decentralisation so that municipalities can be more effective in addressing emissions; with **better public transport; energy efficient buildings; more resilient waste management**
- Explore **technical cooperation and local fundraising**, utilizing green technologies supported by private collaboration and city-to-city exchanges
- Residents too play a complementary part—urban policies can be complemented by **knowledge and awareness**; media, education and civil society have a role to help change attitudes and lifestyles
- **Social protection** should encompass climate impacts – with governments in the lead complemented by private instruments

Developing countries are already calling for national ownership and priority setting; this is the time for...



Tools for cooperation

- Technology
- Finance
- Accurate knowledge

Backed by

- Institutions
- Attitudes
- Assessments



Rising to the climate challenge...

Can Asia Pacific pursue its unfinished development agenda, leaving a fainter footprint?



Thank you 😊😊