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## **Coping with Sustainability Challenges in Asian Megacities**

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Cities are growing at an enormous speed. They account for more than half of the world's population, for 80% of global economic activity and for 70% of global carbon emissions. Economic transformation has driven urbanization and helped more urbanized countries to better reduce poverty. The trend is expected to continue in Asia, however, with more growth in medium-sized cities and an increasing share of urban poor. Due to the uncontrolled growth, megacities are facing serious environmental and social challenges and decreasing economic growth rates. High quality urban management will be decisive for a sustainable development of the region.

In order to bring cities on a sustainable growth path Asia has to overcome key gaps in a) efficient land use and land markets, in b) urban capacities to manage and plan, and in c) financing urban infrastructure services. SECO is supporting improvements on the urban data basis, the application of tools and processes for analyzing and planning cities in an integrated manner i.e. covering all sectors, including disaster risk management, involving key stakeholder, linking planning and infrastructure investments. This goes together with capacity building at national, city and utility company level. Further, financing is made available for concrete investments and the improvement of framework conditions of infrastructure financing.