

The Role of Asian Cities in Global Climate Diplomacy

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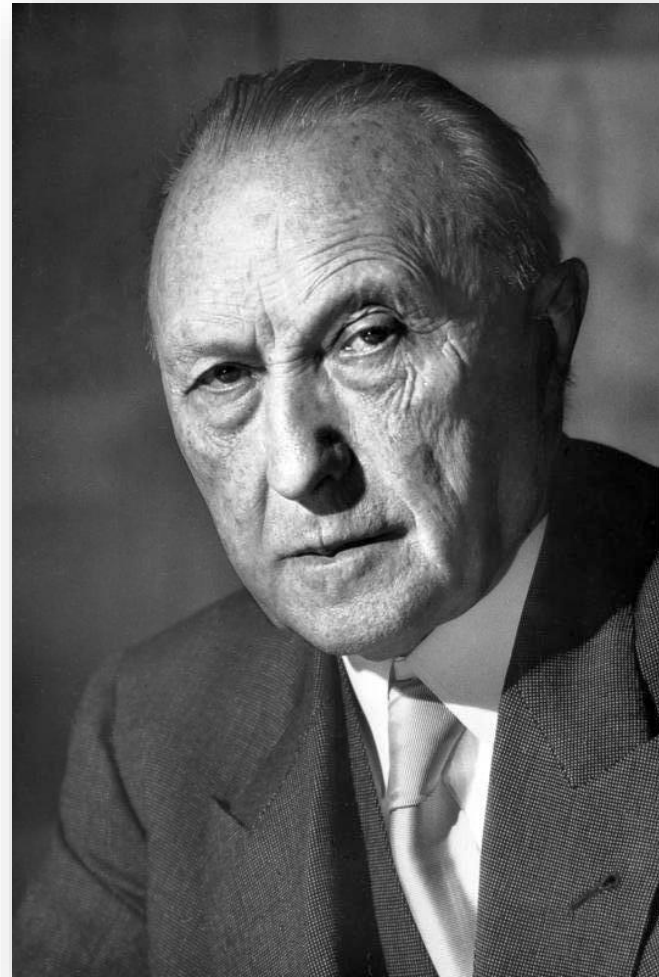
“Veracity and honesty among politicians are the basis of trust. Trust in the basis of successful political negotiations” (*Adenauer, 1965*)

Paraphrasing

Global climate diplomacy through transnational, voluntary climate networks

by and for cities

form the basis for successful climate negotiations.



Cities in Global Climate Diplomacy

Cities and international relations

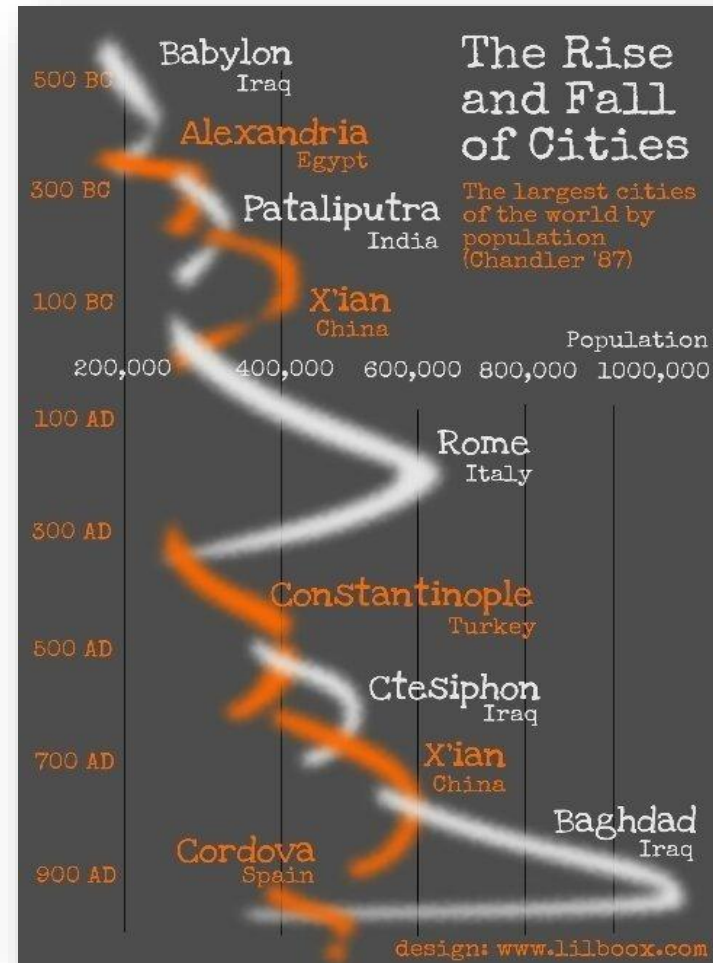
- Cities essential in world politics
- Places *for* politics, actors *in* politics
- What, how and why of cities' agency within and across their geographical boundaries
- Global cities influence on global governance and diplomacy
- Cities as sites of IR or limited role in IR (not recognized in international law)
- **Strategic potential of cities in non-traditional challenges, e.g. climate change**
- **Cities as connectors of local process with global trends**



Cities in Global Climate Diplomacy

Cities and para-diplomacy

- Political agency of cities (subnational actors)
- Cities bypassing and/or collaborating with national actors through voluntary, cross-boundary, transnational and global connections
 - What is the source of their agency?
 - What are the impacts these interactions have on global governance?



Cities in Global Climate Diplomacy

Urban studies

- Defining the city in the space bridging transnational borders as an *area* for transnational interaction and an *agent* for this interaction
- Discussing the politics of multi-level governance and the distribution of authority and the legitimacy of transnational networks:
 - Diffused authority
 - Dispersed decision-making
 - Muddled sovereignty; joint responsibility?



Thus, research niche

- While there is evidence of transnational activity to govern climate change, this mostly focuses on a few cases in the Global North
- **Neglect of Global South (Asia included), of its cultural, political and geographical context**

Three Analytical Points

How cities *acting global* are *thinking urban*?

- Are cities acquiring **strategic potential** in global climate governance through networks? (networks)
- Are cities acquiring greater **diplomatic capacity** in global climate change governance? (cities)
- How and why cities **interact** *in* the transnational space and are agents *of* that space? (urban-global link)

Transnational Urban CC Networks

- Voluntary, intermediary organizations and initiatives for local governments
- Formed by and for cities since 1990s

Questions:

- Why do they emerge, function and what are the sources of their authority and legitimacy?
- Which are the variables likely to affect their performance?
- What drives cities to join?
- Which are the likely mutual effects: on cities, and/or on networks?

Methods/Data Sources

Method

- In depth comparative case studies.
- Two cities (Singapore & HK); Two networks (SEANCC & C40)

Data Sources:

- Documentary analysis: the networks (vision, mission, structure, activities, impact)
- Documentary analysis: cities' activities in the networks (motives & expectations, activities & practices, impacts)
- **24 in-depth semi-structured interviews** with stakeholders (public, private and civil society sectors) in the two cities

Asian Global Cities

Global Cities Index (2016) – ATKerney

Asia-Pacific has 7 in top 20:

Hong Kong (5); Singapore (8).

Others: Tokyo (4), Beijing (8); Seoul (12)

27 metrics, 5 dimensions:

Business activity

Human capital (measured by % of foreign-born talent): HK high score!

RELEVANT: Information exchange (free media, civil society, foreign NGOs presence)

Cultural exchange

Political engagement

Global Cities Outlook (2016) – ATKerney

- Singapore slides to 17th. HK rushes down to 57th!
- Criteria: well-being, economics, **innovation, governance**

GCIIndex/GCOutlook Criteria

Global Cities methodology

Global Cities Index—current performance

- Measures 27 metrics across five dimensions
 - **Business activity (30%)**: capital flow, market dynamics, and major companies present
 - **Human capital (30%)**: education levels
 - **Information exchange (15%)**: access to information through Internet and other media sources
 - **Cultural experience (15%)**: access to major sporting events, museums, and other expos
 - **Political engagement (10%)**: political events, think tanks, and embassies
- **Rank and score** are determined by totaling the weighted averages of each dimension to yield a score on a scale of 0 to 100 (100=perfect)
- **Sources** are derived from publicly available city-level data¹

Global Cities Outlook—future potential

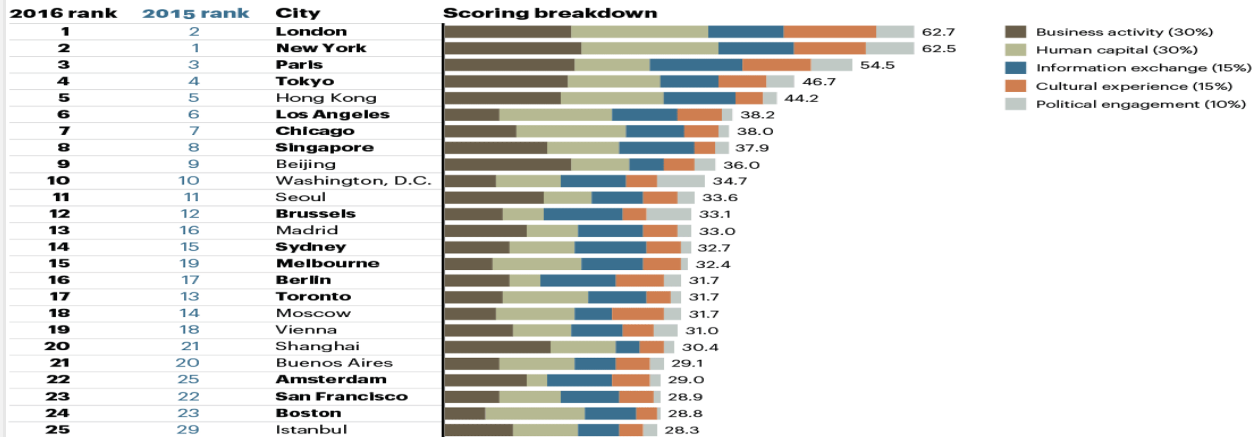
- Measures 13 indicators across four dimensions
 - **Personal well-being (25%)**: safety, healthcare, inequality, and environmental performance
 - **Economics (25%)**: long-term investments and GDP
 - **Innovation (25%)**: entrepreneurship through patents, private investments, and incubators
 - **Governance (25%)**: proxy for long-term stability through transparency, quality of bureaucracy, and ease of doing business
- **Rank and score** determined by averaging rate of change across each metric using the past five years' data, then projecting out to 2026. Weighted averages applied to each dimension to yield a score on a scale of 0 to 100 (100=perfect)
- **Sources** are derived from publicly available city-level data¹

¹In the few cases when city-level data is not available, country-level data is used.

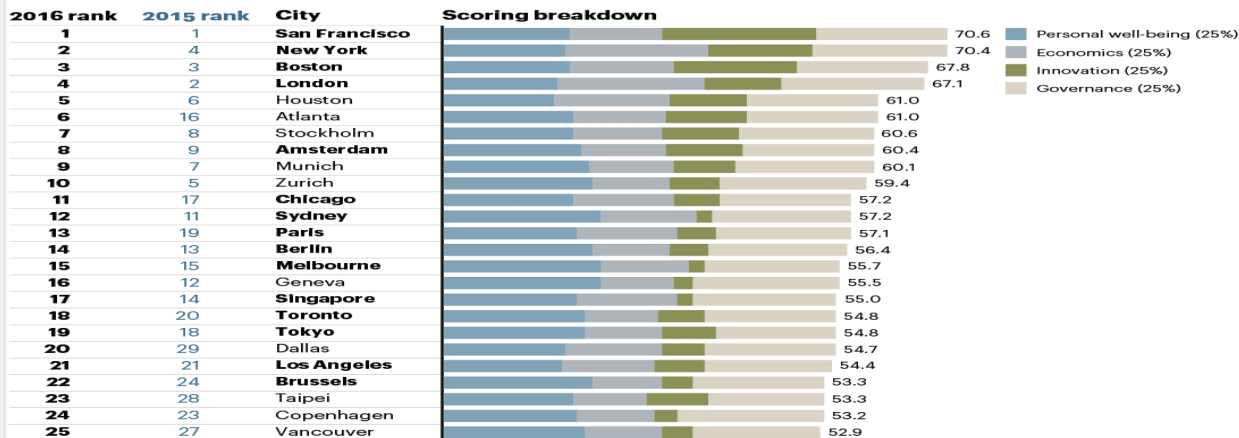
Global Cities Index 2016

Figure 1
The top 25 cities on the Index and the Outlook

Global Cities Index, rank and score



Global Cities Outlook, rank and score



Note: **Bold** city names indicate top 25 in both Index and Outlook.
Source: A.T. Kearney Global Cities 2016

Singapore (8th GCI)

Factsheet

Location	1.35N 103.81%
Area (km ₂)	719 (100% urban) Temp: 27.0C Rainfall: 2784 mm/yr
Population (million)	5.54
GDP (US\$ billion)	285 (2016)
Energy use (kg oil eq per capita)	4,716 (2014)
CO ₂ emissions (mt CO ₂ eq/t per capita)	40,377/8.7

Map



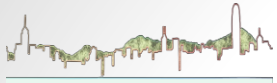
Hong Kong (5th GCI)

Factsheet

Location	22.39N 114.1E
Area (km ₂)	1,105 (60/40% urban/country) Temp: 23.3C Rainfall: 2,399 mm/yr
Population (million)	7.31
GDP (US\$ billion)	310 (2016)
Energy use (kg oil eq per capita)	2,045.3 (2012)
CO ₂ emissions (mt CO ₂ eq/t per capita)	43.1/5 to 7.4

Map

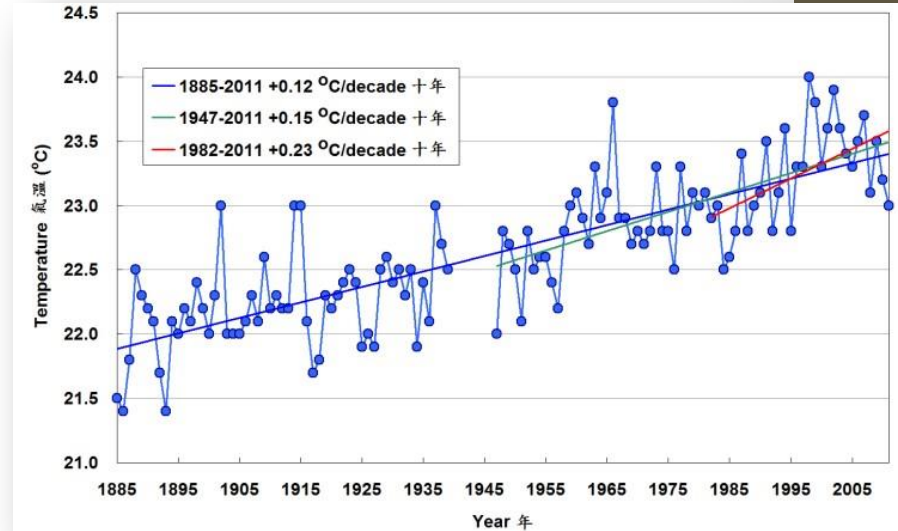




Effects of Climate Change

Analysis Annual Mean Temperature Data:

- ↑ 0.12°C per decade from 1885 to 2011
- ↑ 0.15°C per decade from 1947 to 2011
- ↑ 0.23°C per decade from 1982 to 2011



Temperature Projection:



- Annual mean temperature ↑ 4.8°C in 2090-2099 from 23.1°C in 1980-1999
- Number of very hot days and hot nights ↑
- Number of cold days ↓

Parameter	Average 1980-1999	Projection 2050-2059	Projection 2090-2099
Annual Number of Hot Nights	16	96	137
Annual Number of Very Hot Days	9	51	89
Annual Number of Cold Days	17	4	1

Effects of Climate Change

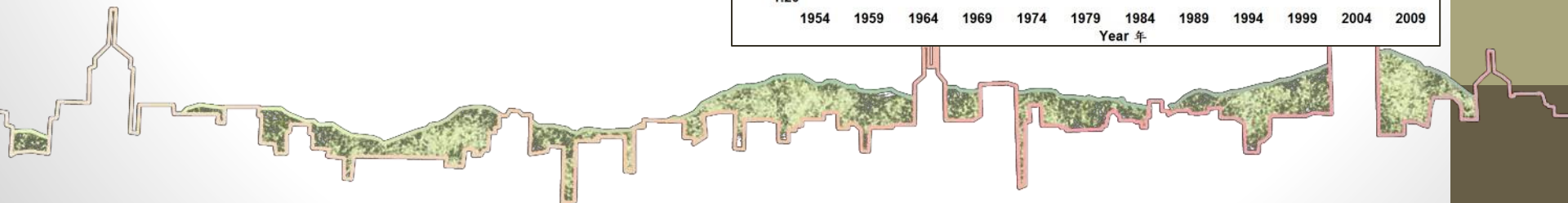
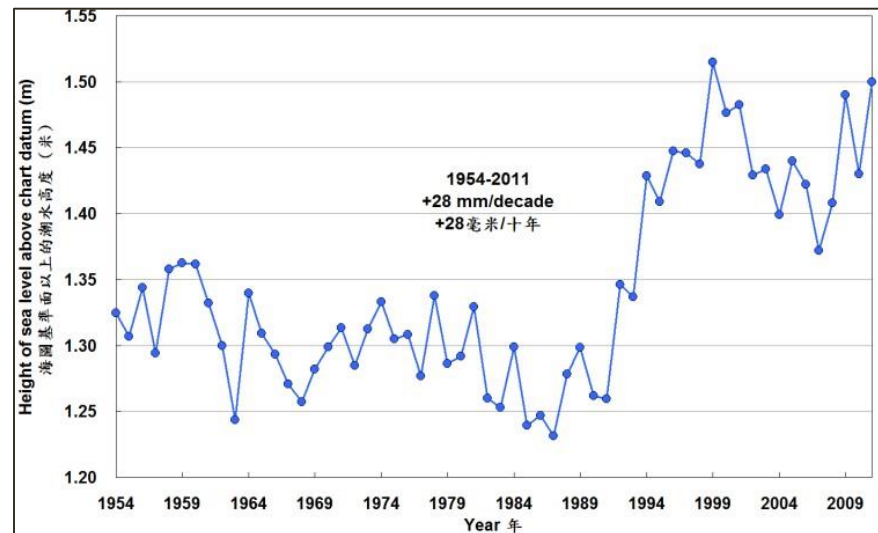
Rainfall Projection

- Average Annual Rainfall \uparrow 248mm (11%) in 2090–2099 from 2324mm in 1980–1999
- Number of extremely wet and dry years \uparrow



Mean Sea Level

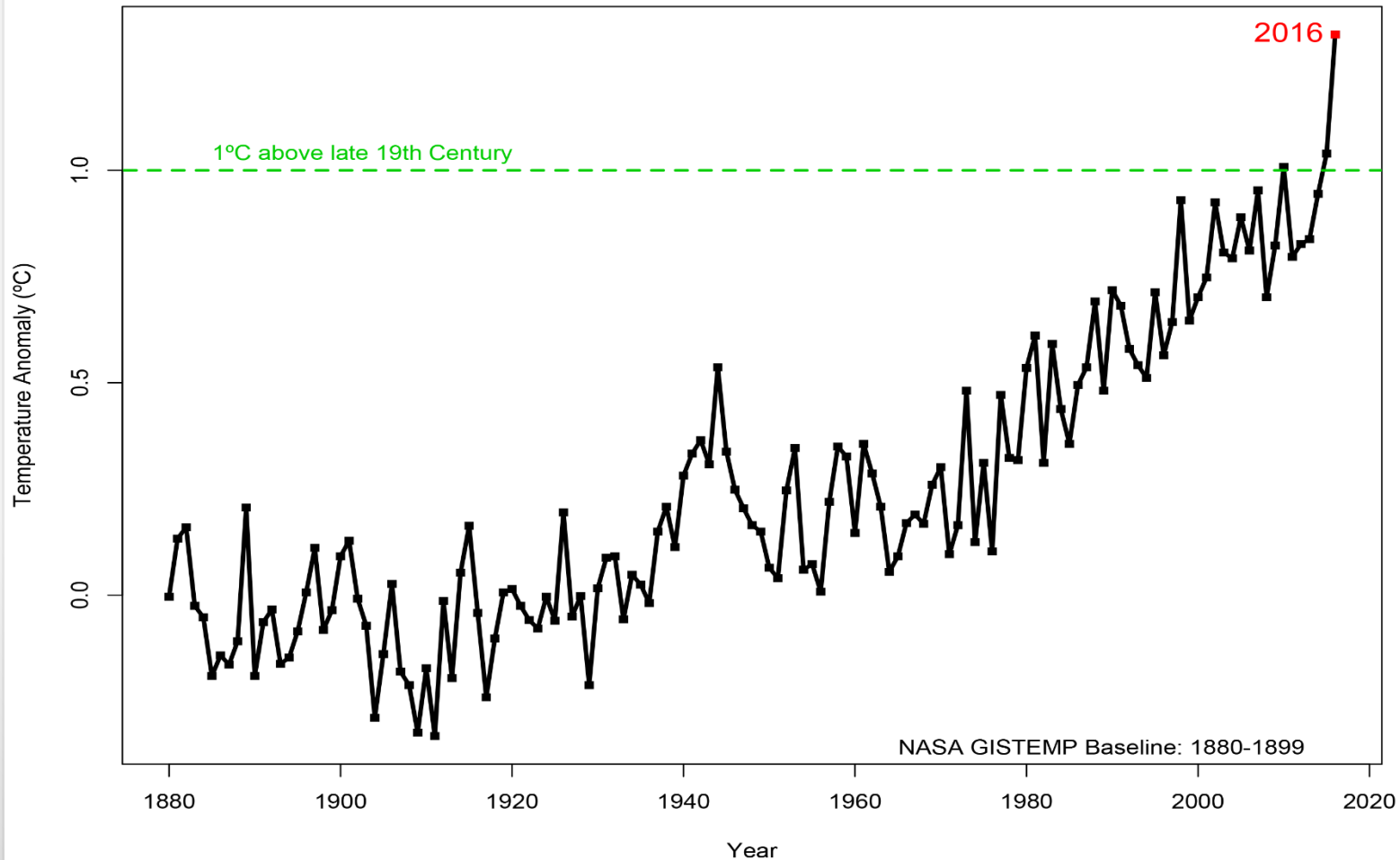
- Rise at a rate of 2.8mm per year from 1954 to 2011



2016 hottest year on record: ground temp, Arctic sea ice.

Source: 19 July 2016 (www.nasa.gov)

Global Mean Surface Temperature (January-June)



Asian Cities & CC Governance

Singapore City–State

- Climate authority: **yes** (NCCS)
- Climate Strategy 2008, 2012: **yes**
- Climate Action Plan 2016: **yes**
- **Partnerships in transnational climate change regimes**
 - UNFCC non-Annex 1 1997 and Kyoto from **2006**
 - **SEANCC** (transnational, regional (ASEAN), country capitals)
 - **C40** (transnational, global, mega cities): observer status; active

Hong Kong SAR of PRC

- Climate authority: **no** (but interdepartmental climate steering committee 2016)
- Climate Strategy: **no** (but public consultations 2010, 2014, 2015 & Climate Report 2015)
- **Partnerships in transnational climate change regimes**
 - UNFCC non-Annex 1 and Kyoto under PRC from **2003**
 - **C40** (transnational, global, mega cities): full-member, steering committee member; passive?

Transnational Global Networks

SEANCC 2009 (10 ASEAN capitals)

http://www.sean-cc.org/wp-content/themes/SEAN-CC_12_09_15/index.php

Vision & Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Info exchange - Negotiating & governance capacity
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat (5 UNEP staff) - 10 cities - 15 partners (ADB, NEA, etc)
Outputs (activities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technology training - Negotiating skills - Database GHG
Outcomes (impact)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Firm targets - Capacity - Mediation national-local-regional

C40 2005 (86 global megacities)

<http://www.c40.org/>

Vision & Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaboration & build on - Procurement policies, climate technologies, reduce emissions
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat (85 staff) - 85 cities - Chair (a Mayor) - 19 partners (ICLEI, Siemens, ARUP, etc) - 8 board of directors - 13 Mayor steering committee
Outputs (activities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mayor summits - Regional and subject subnetwork workshops - Pilot projects - Procurement partnerships (CCI)
Outcomes (impact)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compact of mayors - Bridging emissions gap - Aggregation city commitments

If Mayors Ruled the World!

C40 CITIES

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
C40'S NEXT CHAIR,
PARIS MAYOR ANNE HIDALGO**

Paris Mayor
Anne Hidalgo
December 2016

Rio de Janeiro Mayor
Eduardo Paes
2013 - 2016

New York City Mayor
Michael Bloomberg
2010 - 2013

Toronto Mayor
David Miller
2008 - 2010

London Mayor
Ken Livingstone
2005 - 2008

When Cities Rule the Seas!



The Southeast Asia Climate Change Network (SEAN-CC)



Founded in 2009, UNEP's South East Asian Climate Change Network (SEAN-CC) operates to inform and support climate change focal points and other relevant stakeholders to reform policies and implement programmes for renewable energy, energy efficiency and reduced greenhouse gas emissions

Analytical Point 1

Cities strategic position through networks

SEANCC

- Regional focus, global reach through UNFCCC
- Negotiating capacity knowledge
- Authority deployed through consensus
- Commonality of purpose through best practice exchange

C40

- Local focus, global reach through Mayors
- Data-driven, market-based, technical-assistance
- Authority deployed through consensus
- Strategic capacity through mayoral authority
- Sectoral focused: buildings, transport, water, etc

Asian Cities & Transnational Global Networks

Singapore (SEANCC & C40)

Motives & Expectations	Share best in class Gain knowledge Honest, unofficial discussions Focused: delivery
Activities & Practices	Standards energy effic Capacity Building sessions Use market tools Tailored-made subnetworks
Impact	Technical cooperation Feedback loop on own policies

Hong Kong (C40)

Motives & Expectations	Achieve and co-learn Specific experience sharing Flexible, voluntary Includes business players
Activities & Practices	2010 Workshop Mayors Summit 2014
Impact	Bilateral policy & technical cooperation (few) Upload of own best practices (ultra low sulf.)

Analytical Point 2

cities diplomatic climate governance capacity

Singapore in TUCCNs

- Given: state-level formal UNFCCC participation
- In addition: transnational networks enhancing but not supplanting role of the state
- Never fragmentation or compromise of state

Hong Kong in TUCCNs

- Not clear: HK role in state-level formal UNFCCC participation
- While no limits to transnational networking, collective climate action through networks is underused
- Authority but no political will?

Analytical Point 3

How and why cities interact in transnational space

- Both cities recognise essentiality of transnational leadership
- **Singapore:**
 - Cautious but consistent in long-term strategies and short-term action plans that bring to bear transnationally
 - No tension between role as city and aspiration as global player
- **Hong Kong:**
 - Struggles along despite robust civil society climate initiatives
 - Tension between day-to-day operations as city, role within the nation and in the global governance arena

Analytical Point 3

...and are agents of transnational space through networks

C40

- Structurally, high agency to megacities
- Operationally, increasingly exclusive...potentially insensitive to local context? Less effective agency?
- Bridging space of thought and action
- Agency through power of collective action (high visibility, leverage opportunities, leadership)
- Argues a particular view of the 'urban' (innovative, global reach)

SEANCC

- Structurally, high agency to regional cities
- Operationally, sensitive to local context. Effective agency
- Limited power of collective action (low global visibility, limited global leadership, regionally enhances cities' agency)

Conclusions: act global, think urban!

In view of:

- Unpredictable environmental (global temperatures) and socio-economic conditions (shifts political leadership & financial markets)
- Rapid urban growth (pivot to Asia)
- Fast resource depletion (water, forest, etc.)

Consider the city:

- Not an assembly of physical elements engineered together BUT
- As space of culture formed by local context and identity, reshaping itself **in conjunction with other cities** across time and space (transnationally!)

Recommendations for city leaders

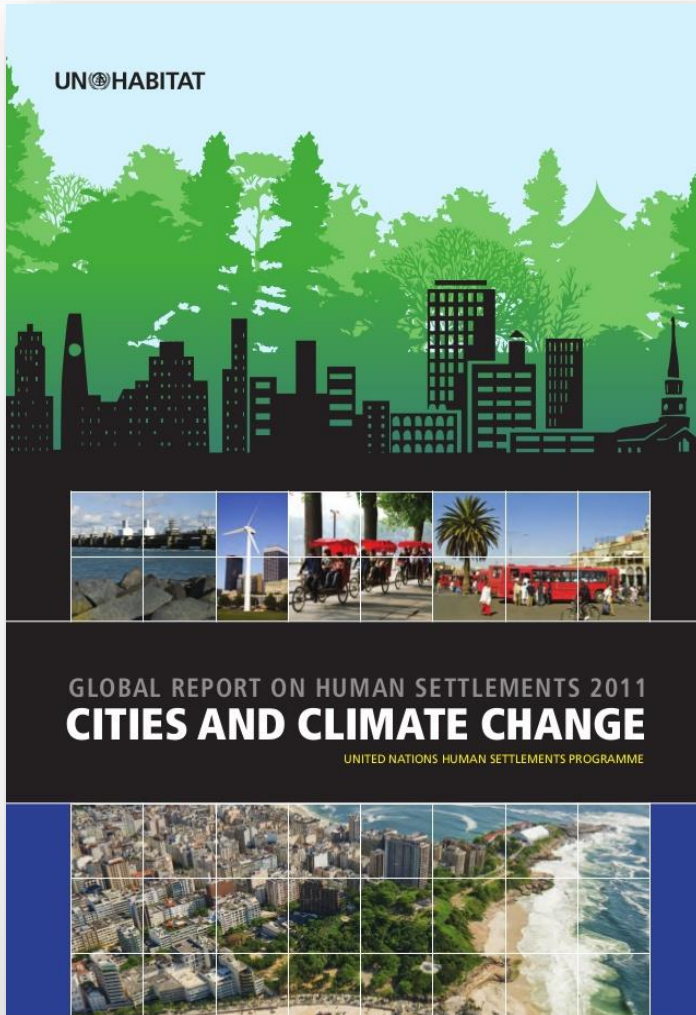
- Rely on science
- Be driven by firm political will
- Establish a climate dedicated authority with institutional, policy and financial coordinating capacities;
- Draw a climate strategy and action plans;
- **Participate in transnational urban climate networks aligned with UNFCCC process;**
- Monitor and evaluate progress;
- Rework strategies and action plans

What next?

- *Paris Agreement was enforced 4 Nov 2016*
- As of 5 Oct 2016, 109 of 197 countries had ratified *Paris Agreement*
- *Marrakech COP22, 7–18 Nov 2016 (COP22, UNFCCC, IPCC)*
- *Focus:*
 - Inclusiveness, transparency and openness
 - Below 2C
 - Urgent & effective mitigation GHG
 - Low carbon transitions in cities (post capitalism)
 - Climate justice for Africa and by Africans (COP22)



Questions



Team

Investigators

- Maria Francesch (HK) political science
- Melissa Low (Singapore) geography & law
- Christopher Len (Singapore) international relations

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- Prof. Tim Moss (Germany) urban political history
- Prof. A-M Esnard (USA) policy & planning
- Prof. Harriet Bulkeley (UK) geography

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