

*Revitalization of the National Urbanization Policy
and Strategy for a Sustainable National Human
Settlements Development in Asia*

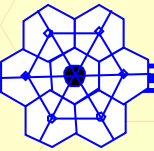
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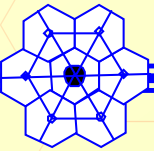
**Eleventh Asian Urbanization Conference
Osmania University, Hyderabad, INDIA**

13 December 2011



Content of the Presentation

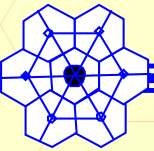
- I. The Role of City in Development
- II. Is Urbanization a Right Path to Development
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I. The Role of City in Development

In the course of development the historic role played by cities and towns as centers of population concentration with occupations other than primary activities, centers of commerce and business, centers of innovation and diffusion of ideas and technologies, and centers of decision making, a concept of urbanization synonymous to development has always prevailed among rural inhabitants and the people responsible to create the fate of the general public, i.e. politicians, planners, decision makers, and professionals.

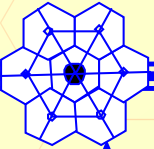
II. Is Urbanization a Right Path to Development?



Contrary to such appreciation by everyone, time to time, politicians, policy makers, planners, professionals and academicians in the developing countries of Asia use to express urbanization as a wrong path to development and generally highlight the evil-face of urbanity.

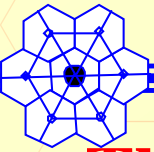
Similarly, many earlier reports describe and many development agents also express their view that growth of urbanization in Asia is very high, which has caused more development problems than development benefits, despite most countries being still in a state of medium or low level of urbanization.

III. The Existing Urban Problems



Actually, urban centres are not free of problems either. There are challenges posed by urbanization including the Asian region. The Todaro model of migration still explains correctly the psychology of people towards cities and there is steady flow of rural migrants to urban areas, particularly to large cities with the expectation of the decent and high paying jobs, which create over-population concentration in the old and already over-crowded cities.

Consequently, urban slums are increasing, which cause relocating the scattered rural poverty to urban pockets. Over crowded streets and housing, gross lack of infrastructure, poor quality of urban amenities, increased crimes and illegitimate works, poor sanitation and pollution, encroachment of land, streets and other public properties have presented the urban centres as the degrading human settlements, providing some sense of reality of problems created by urbanization.

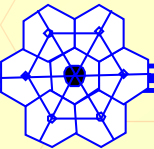


IV. The Policy Dilemmas

The dilemma is reflected in the policy sphere

- i. bypassed comprehensive national spatial development policy, which deals with regional, urban and rural development combined;**
- ii. lack of alternative to slowing down primacy or mega-city phenomena;**
- iii. neglecting small and medium city and town development;**
- iv. physical and functional integration of small and medium cities;**
- v. reducing rural to urban migration as part of slowing the urbanization process and urban development concentration;**
- vi. policy geared towards basically face-lifting by improving infrastructure in the central cities, supplying housing for middle class and lower strata of the urban population and improving urban facilities for the existing urban population.**

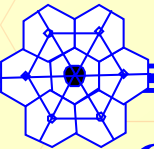
V. Policy related Big Questions



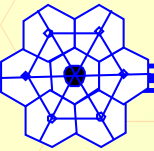
Now a series of valid questions can be raised as follows.

- i. Are cities and urban areas still significant as the engine of development, particularly with their impacts in rural areas?**
- ii. Do the Asian developing countries need a national urbanization policy with a view to expand and to extend urbanization or speed it up? Or, leave the process of urbanization to spontaneous and market mechanism?**
- iii. If the policy of urbanization adhered, what type of urbanization would be the most fruitful for transferring the rural areas into physically interlinked and functionally interdependent dynamic and sustainable living and working places?**
- iv. Do countries still need to establish and develop cities of various sizes (metropolitan cities, large cities, medium cities, small cities, and towns?)**

V. Policy related Big Questions



- v. Or is there only a need for a small-town based urbanization approach vigorously pursued and accordingly plan for (i) consolidation of groups of villages; (ii) development of new towns; and (iii) development of necessary infrastructure and installation of basic services in the prospective villages to upgrade them to small town?**
- vi. Should only specialized cities and towns like that of industrial, educational, entertainment, information technology (IT), cultural, and border be developed, independently with a totally new concept and at new location as a theme park or a city or a number of cities within the existing large cities (metropolis)?**
- vii. Is it to develop a policy of de-urbanization along with a policy of suburbanization or rurbanization by developing and providing the so-called traditional urban facilities and services to rural areas, and leaving urban issues only as urban management for existing cities and towns?**

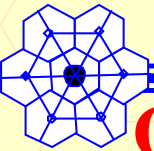


VI. Objective of the Study & Study Approach

In the above context, this study has analyzed the state of urbanization in Asia, reviewed related policies and strategies, and discussed for revitalizing the national urbanization policy and strategies for a sustainable national human settlements system in Asia.

This study is basically a secondary one. In addition to the discussion based on published sources on urbanization policies of the Asian countries, this paper deriving both cross-sectional and longitudinal secondary data from sources like the Asian Development Bank Database and Key Indicators, specific websites like World Gazetteer and City Population, and country specific statistics websites, a descriptive part on urbanization is incorporated to present the state of urbanization and its relationship with basic development indicators.

VII. Urbanization in Theory and Practice



Origin of cities: there are four theories

Hydraulic theories: the concept of surplus of agricultural production

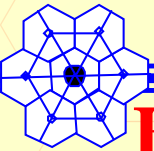
Economic theories: the growth of markets originated either because of long distance mercantile trade, or due to the need for the management of agricultural production and distribution

Military theories: growth about defensive strong-points as while working and living together, people required their protection by walls or some other types of fences

Religious theories: the city as temple as the origin of temples and the teaching of priests stationed at temples attracted social activities as well as pilgrims from long distance and consequently such settlements developed as cities.

There are other theories of urbanization as well.

VII. Urbanization in Theory and Practice- continued



Bases for urbanization

The central place theory – size and spacing of cities

☐ a rough calculation denotes a 60% urbanization as the minimum is required to provide services at the minimum travel distance

Stages of spatial organization (Friedmann 1966)

Stage I: Pre-industrial

Stage II: Transitional (incipient)

Stage III: Industrial maturity

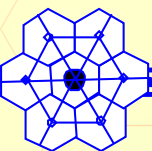
Stage IV: Post-industrial (mass consumption)

Spatial structure of nodal regions (Haggett 1966) - *indicative*

Nodes grow to hierarchies and turn to surfaces

Vance's Mercantile model of urbanization – *dendritic pattern*

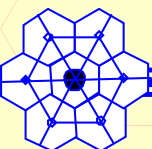
Taffe's market-transport system (1963) – *indicative*



VIII. The State of Urbanization in Asia

Table 1: Present level of urbanization in Asia, 2010

Subregion	< 20% (Very Low)	20% - 40% (Low)	40% - 60% (Moderate)	60% - 80% (High)	80% > (Very High)
Eastern Asia (50.2%)	-	-	Taiwan China	Japan Mongolia DPR Korea	Hong Kong Macao Republic of Korea
Southeastern Asia (41.8%)	-	Thailand Myanmar Lao PDR Viet Nam Cambodia	Philippines Indonesia	Malaysia	Singapore Brunei Darussalam
Southern Asia (28.0%)	Nepal Sri Lanka	Pakistan Bhutan India Bangladesh Afghanistan	Maldives	-	-
Central Asia (46.0%)		Uzbekistan Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan	Kazakhstan Turkmenistan	Iran	-

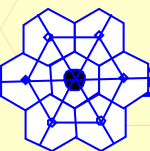


VIII. The State of Urbanization in Asia - continued

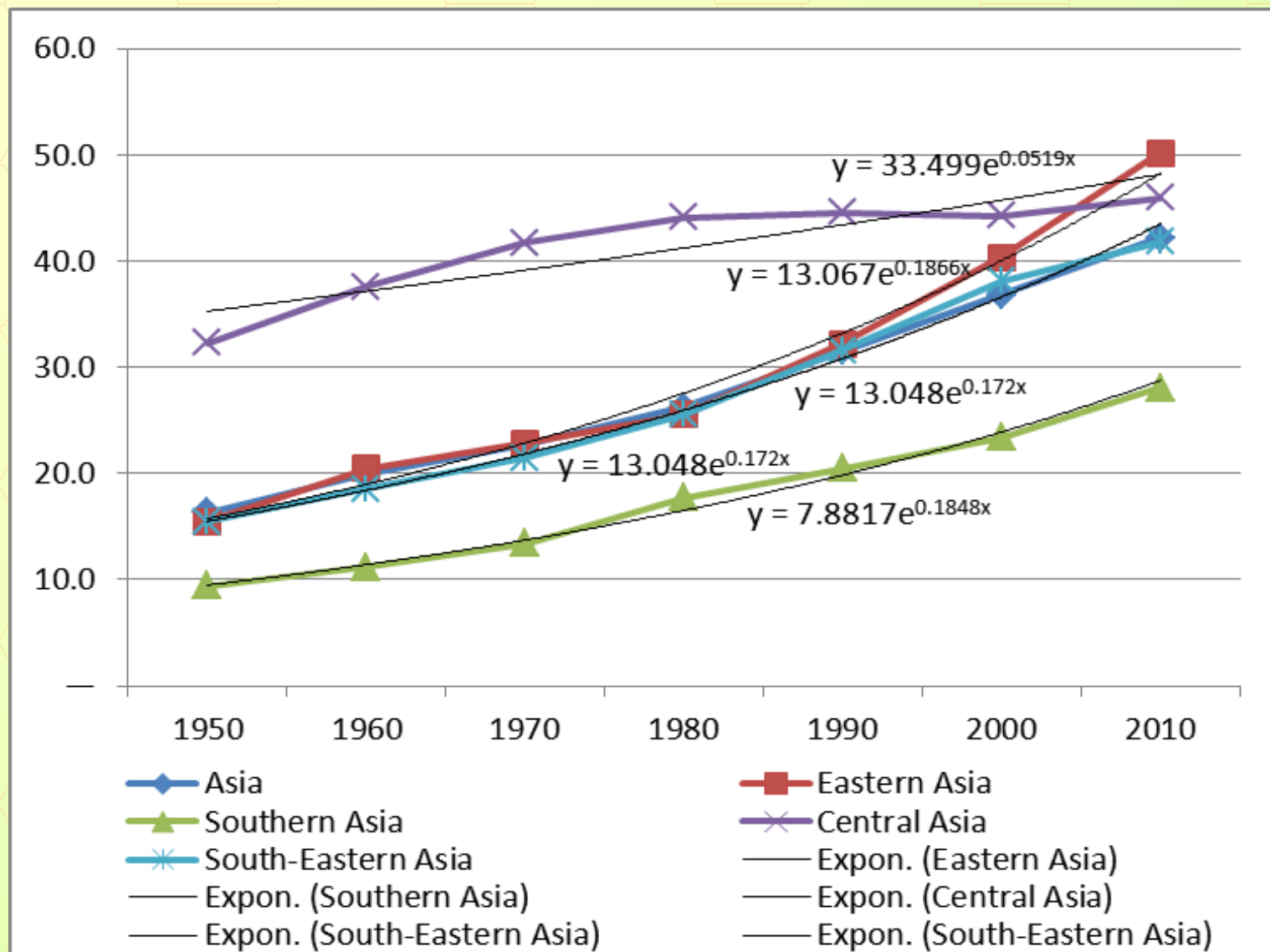
Table 2: Percentage of Population Residing in Urban Areas in Asian Countries, 1950-2050

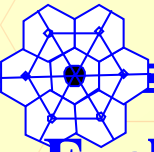
Subregion & Country	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Asia	16.3	20.0	22.7	26.3	31.5	36.8	42.2
Eastern Asia	15.5	20.4	22.9	25.6	32.2	40.4	50.2
China, Hong Kong SAR	85.2	85.2	87.7	91.5	99.5	100.0	100.0
China, Macao SAR	96.9	95.3	97.0	98.5	99.8	100.0	100.0
Republic of Korea	21.4	27.7	40.7	56.7	73.8	79.6	83.0
Japan	34.9	43.1	53.2	59.6	63.1	65.2	66.8
Mongolia	20.0	35.7	45.1	52.1	57.0	56.9	62.0
DPR Korea	31.0	40.2	54.2	56.9	58.4	59.4	60.2
China	11.8	16.2	17.4	19.4	26.4	35.8	47.0
Southern Asia	9.4	11.2	13.4	17.7	20.5	23.4	28.0
Maldives	10.6	11.2	11.9	22.3	25.8	27.7	40.1
Pakistan	17.5	22.1	24.8	28.1	30.6	33.1	35.9
Bhutan	2.1	3.6	6.1	10.1	16.4	25.4	34.7
India	17.0	17.9	19.8	23.1	25.5	27.7	30.0
Bangladesh	4.3	5.1	7.6	14.9	19.8	23.6	28.1
Afghanistan	5.8	8.0	11.0	15.7	18.1	20.2	22.6
Nepal	2.7	3.5	4.0	6.1	8.9	13.4	18.6
Sri Lanka	15.3	17.9	21.9	21.6	18.6	15.8	14.3
Central Asia	32.3	37.6	41.7	44.1	44.5	44.2	46.0
Iran	27.5	33.7	41.2	49.7	56.3	64.2	70.8
Kazakhstan	36.4	44.2	50.2	54.1	56.3	56.3	58.5
Turkmenistan	45.0	46.4	47.8	47.1	45.1	45.8	49.5
Uzbekistan	28.9	34.0	36.7	40.8	40.2	37.4	36.2
Kyrgyzstan	26.5	34.2	37.5	38.6	37.8	35.2	34.5
Tajikistan	29.4	33.2	36.9	34.3	31.7	26.5	26.3
South-Eastern Asia	15.5	18.5	21.5	25.5	31.6	38.2	41.8
Singapore	99.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Brunei Darussalam	26.8	43.4	61.7	59.9	65.8	71.1	75.7
Malaysia	20.4	26.6	33.5	42.0	49.8	62.0	72.2
Philippines	27.1	30.3	33.0	37.5	48.6	48.0	48.9
Indonesia	12.4	14.6	17.1	22.1	30.6	42.0	44.3
Thailand	16.5	19.7	20.9	26.8	29.4	31.1	34.0
Myanmar	16.2	19.2	22.8	24.0	24.7	27.8	33.6
Lao PDR	7.2	7.9	9.6	12.4	15.4	22.0	33.2
Viet Nam	11.6	14.7	18.3	19.2	20.3	24.5	30.4
Cambodia	10.2	10.3	16.0	9.0	12.6	16.9	20.1

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011). World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision, CD-ROM Edition.



VIII. The State of Urbanization in Asia - continued

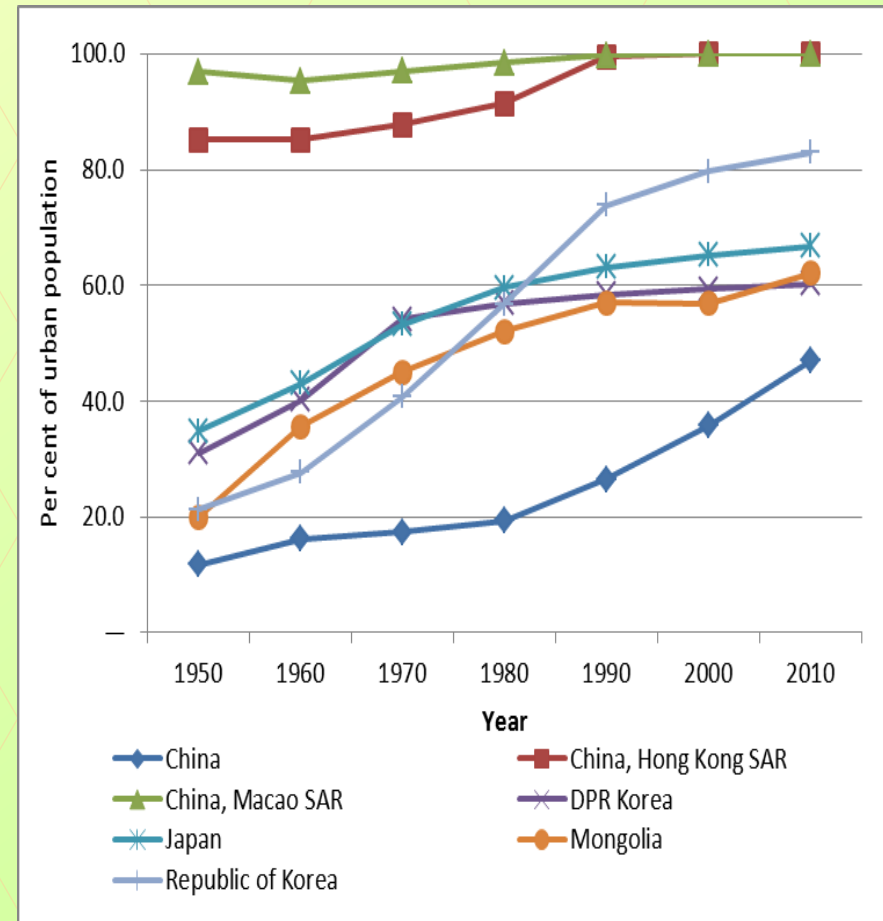


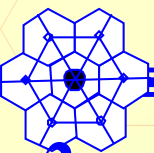


VIII. The State of Urbanization in Asia - continued

Excluding Hong Kong, Macao and Singapore which were already at the very high level of urbanization in 1950, the level of urbanization in the four Asian subregions over the last 60 years shows four distinct trends as follows.

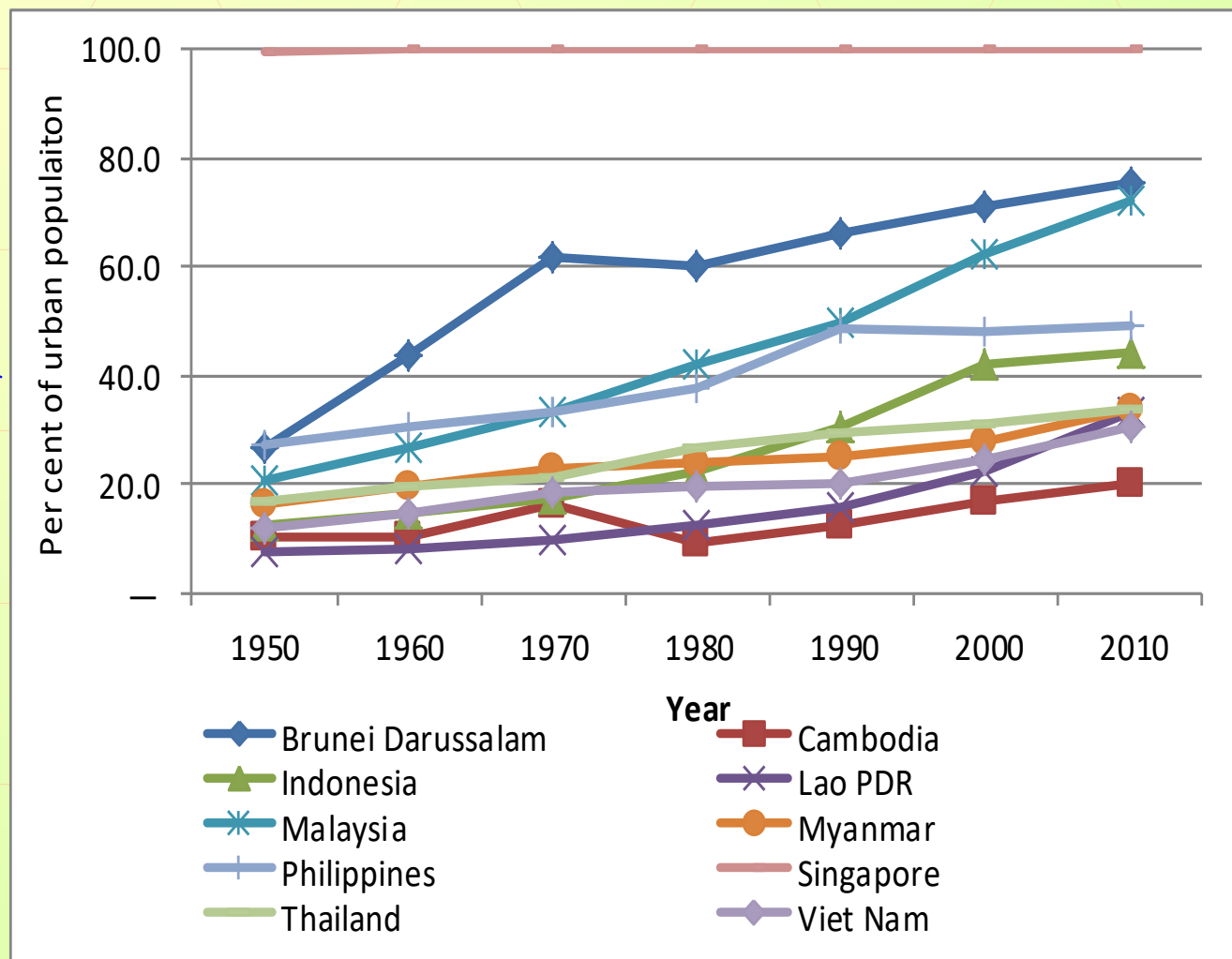
1. A two level jump among the East Asian countries, i.e. either from very low to moderate or from low to high, except the Republic of Korea which has jumped from low to very high level of urbanization (see the adjoining figure).

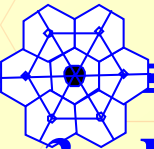




VIII. The State of Urbanization in Asia - continued

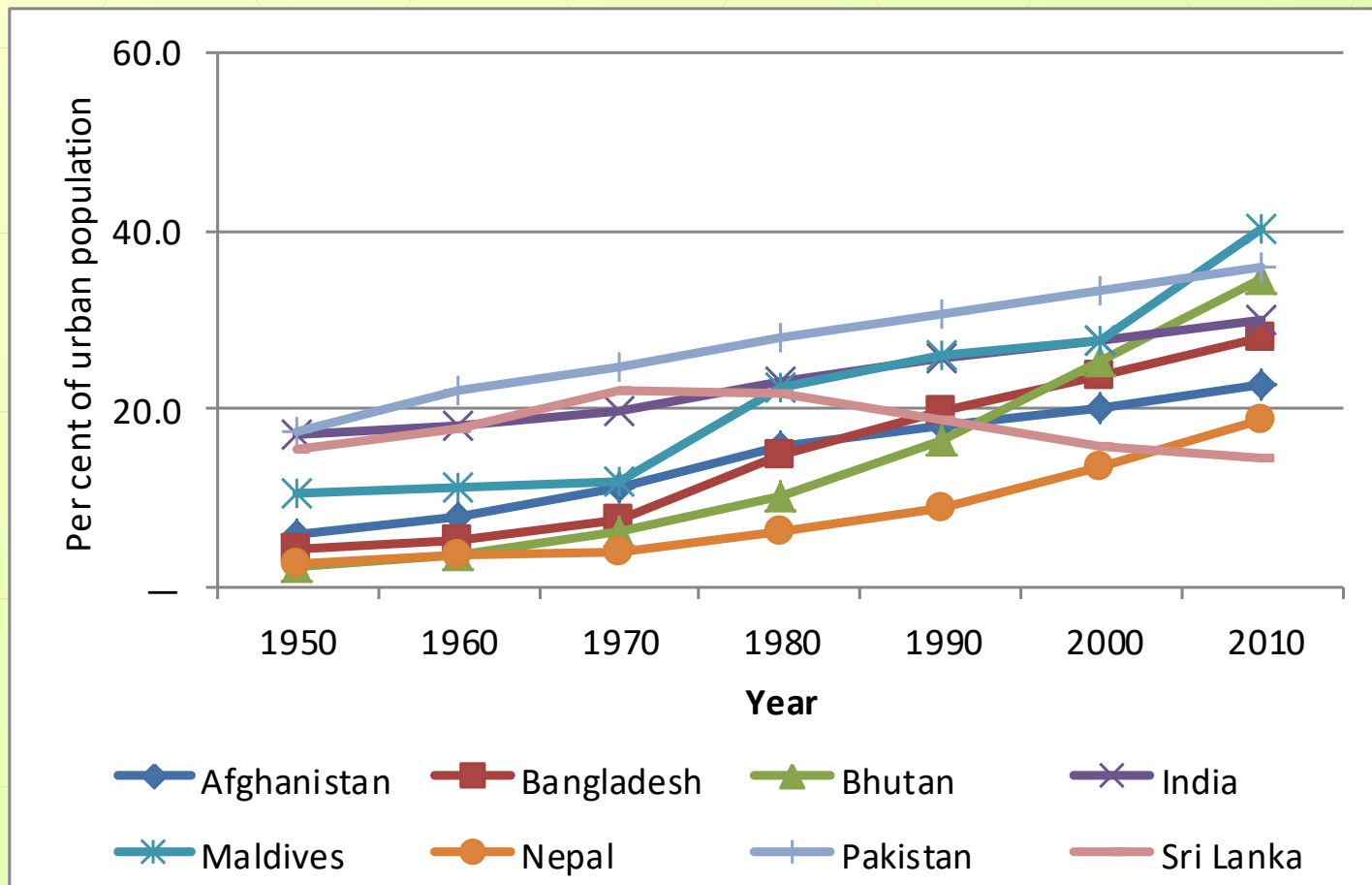
2. A single level move from very low to low or low to moderate in Southeastern Asian subregion except Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia which have jumped two levels, i.e. from low to high (see the adjoining figure).

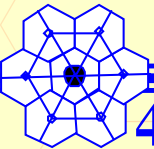




VIII. The State of Urbanization in Asia - continued

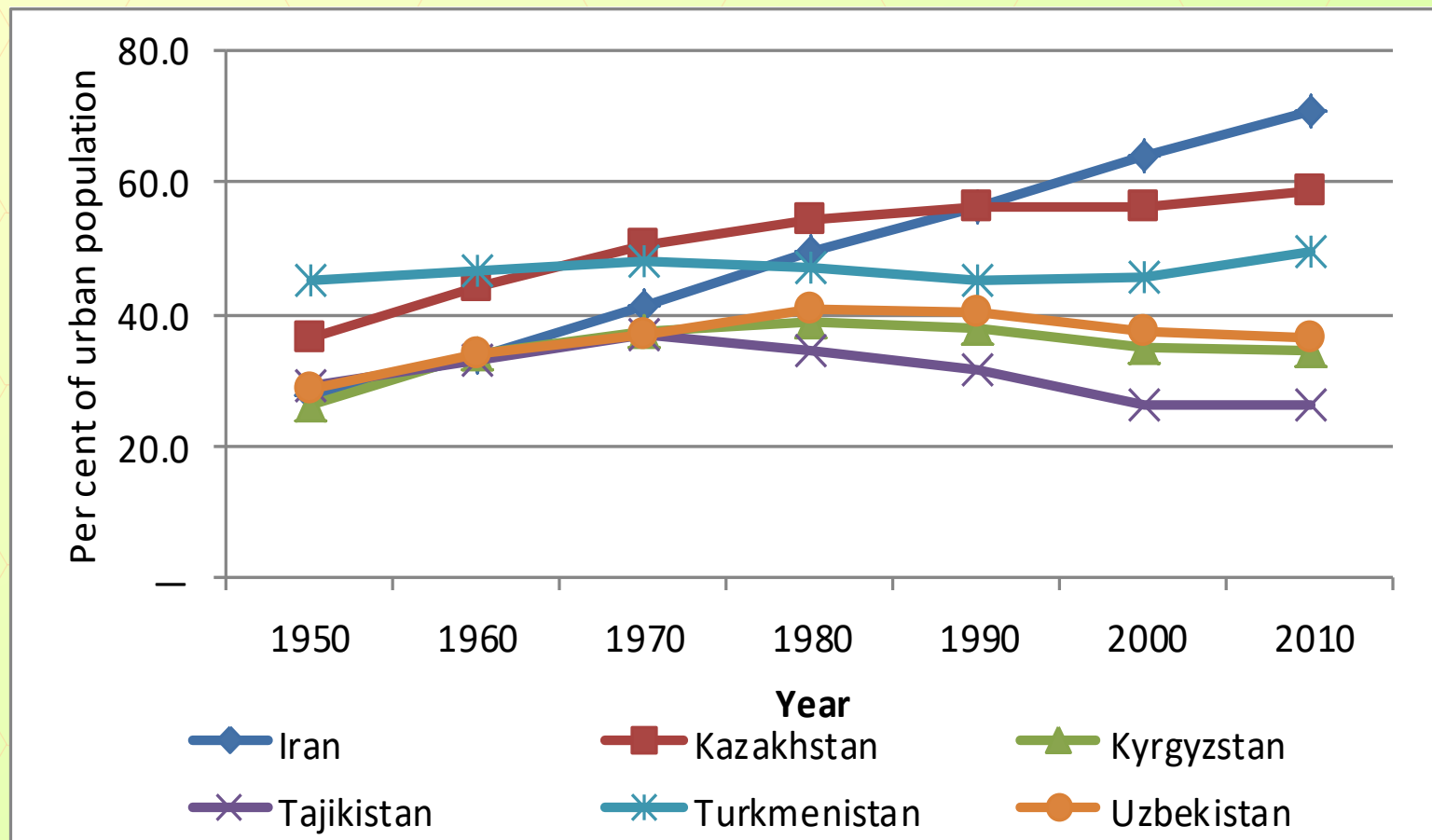
3. Hardly, a single level move from very low to low level among Southern Asian countries except Nepal and Sri Lanka which have not moved even a single level (see the adjoining figure).

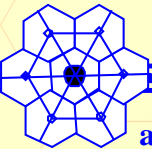




VIII. The State of Urbanization in Asia - continued

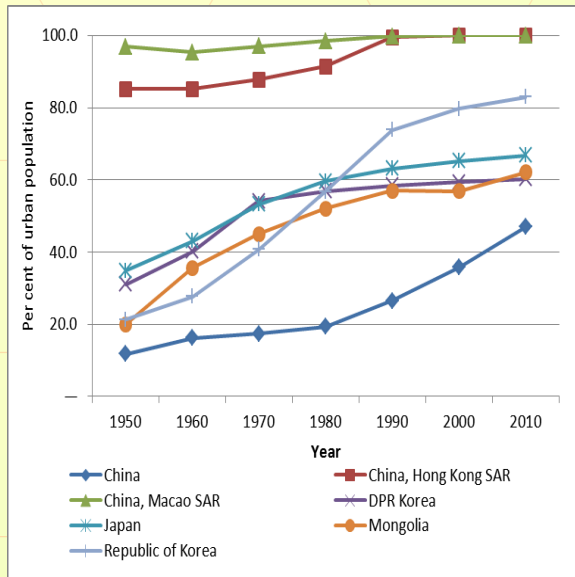
4. A stagnant trend, as countries of Central Asia have remained either at low or moderate level of urbanization as they were 60 years ago, except Iran which has jumped from low level to high level of urbanization (see the adjoining figure).



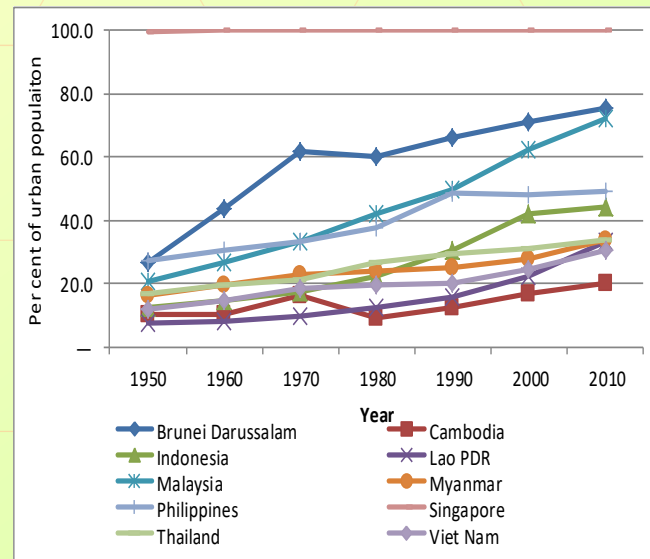


VIII. The State of Urbanization in Asia - continued

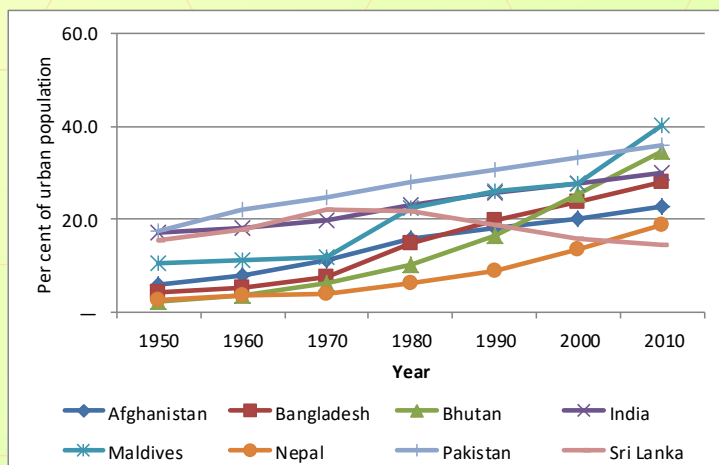
a. Urbanization trend in Eastern Asia, 1950-2010



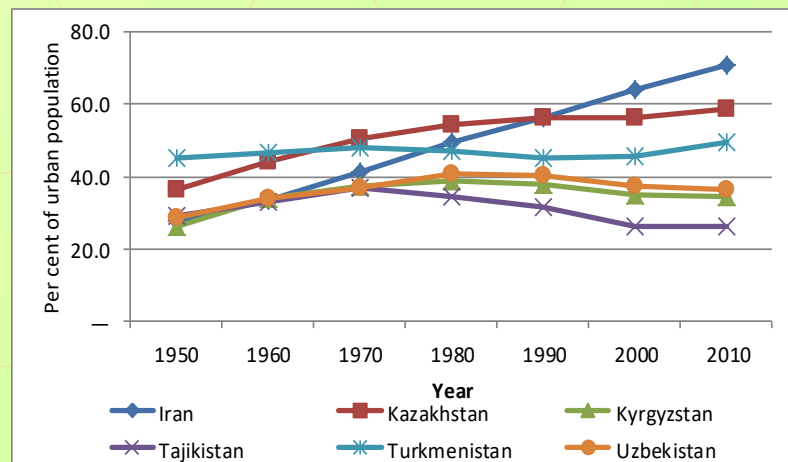
b. Urbanization trend in South-Eastern Asia, 1950-2010

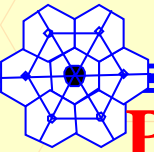


c. Urbanization trend in Southern Asia, 1950-2010



d. Urbanization trend in Central Asia, 1950-2010

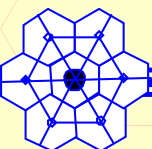




VIII. The State of Urbanization in Asia - continued

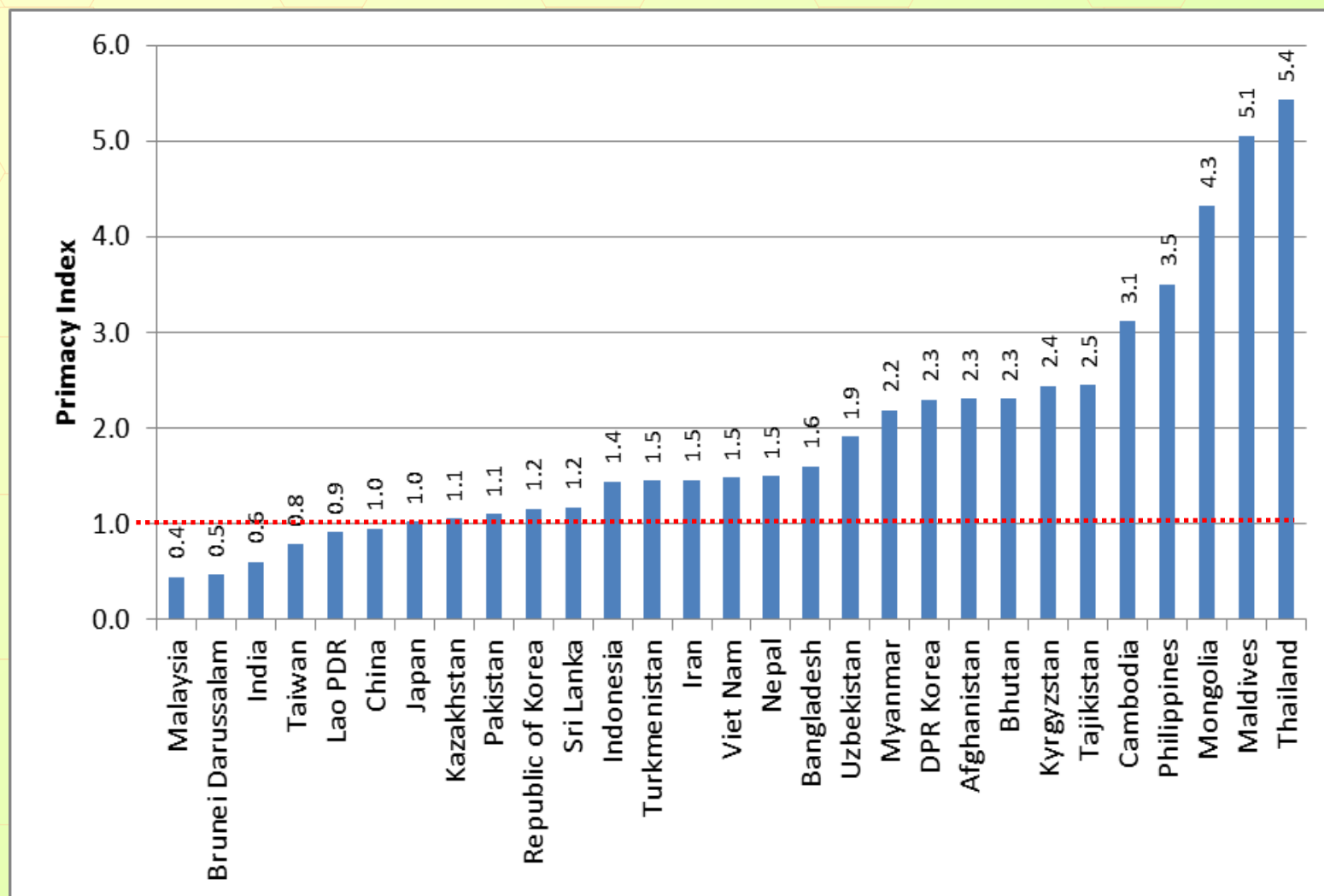
Primacy

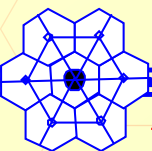
- ❑ Relatively a low level of primacy of the central city.
- ❑ Six countries, namely Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, India, Taiwan, Laos, China and Japan do not show any dominance of a single city when measured with a 4-city primacy index.
- ❑ The status of primacy of other countries ranges low to high.
- ❑ No particular trend of primacy observed and conclusion be derived as
 - i. the countries without primate city fall under low, moderate, high and very high levels of urbanization;
 - ii. countries with low level of primacy fall under all levels of urbanization with a maximum number of countries;
 - iii. countries with moderate and high primacy spread across low, moderate and high levels of urbanization; and
 - iv. the largest clusters of countries fall under low to moderate primacy-urbanization cluster.



VIII. The State of Urbanization in Asia - continued

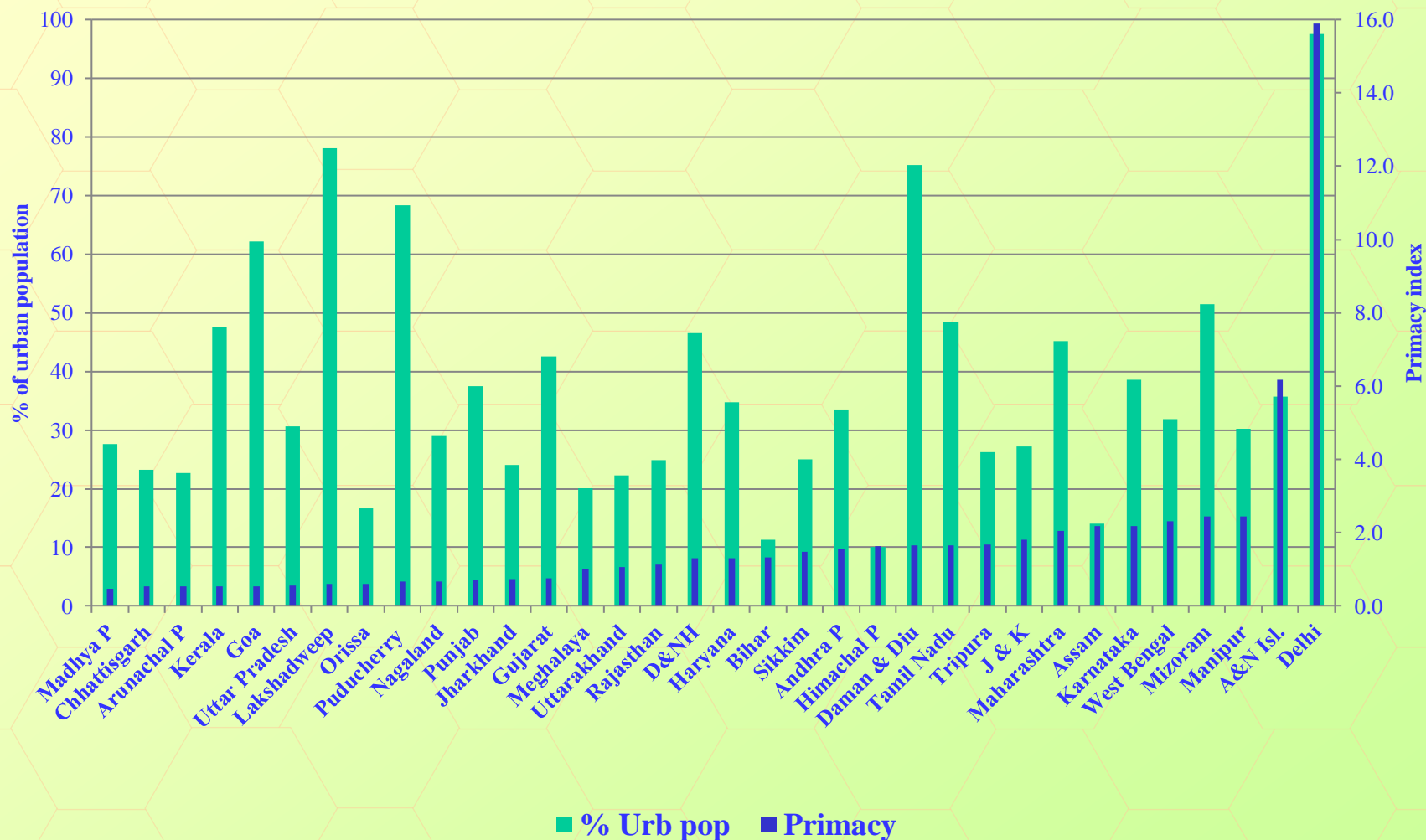
Figure 3: Primacy index of Asian urbanization, 2010

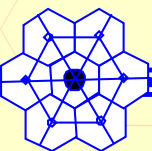




VIII. The State of Urbanization in Asia - continued

Figure 4: Primacy index and level of urbanization in India, 2010

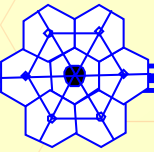




VIII. The State of Urbanization in Asia - continued

Table 4: Number of cities by size

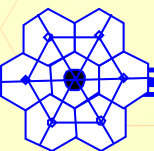
Countries	Size of cities by population							Total
	Less than 10K	10K-20K	20K-50K	50K-100K	100K-500K	500K-1,000K	Over 1,000K	
India	1199	1638	1438	570	448	45	43	5381
Japan	425	430	457	249	228	14	12	1815
Iran	485	204	152	75	71	5	8	1000
Philippines	307	319	199	87	79	7	2	1000
China	NA	NA	NA	441	343	78	50	916
Indonesia	2	3	170	147	174	9	10	515
Pakistan	67	130	137	69	56	5	8	472
Bangladesh	59	102	147	73	40	1	5	427
Kazakhstan	207	64	44	11	21	0	1	348
Taiwan	58	55	115	52	38	2	3	323
Thailand	7	141	103	29	20	0	1	301
Malaysia	0	39	58	46	34	9	3	189
Uzbekistan	3	39	75	18	18	0	1	154
Republic of Korea	NA	5	42	34	40	9	9	139
DPR Korea	11	48	45	12	12	1	1	130
Afghanistan	56	29	12	5	5	0	1	108
Tajikistan	37	24	13	4	1	1	0	80
Sri Lanka	11	9	28	15	8	1	0	72
Viet Nam	NA	3	17	16	29	1	2	68
Maldives	62	0	0	0	1	0	0	63
Nepal	1	4	28	17	8	1	0	59
Myanmar	1	1	22	27	1	2	0	54
Kyrgyzstan	2	18	8	4	1	1	0	34
Bhutan	29	1	1	1	0	0	0	32
Turkmenistan	0	6	16	6	3	1	0	32
Cambodia	3	1	14	6	2	0	1	27
Mongolia	1	7	14	2	0	1	0	25
Lao PDR	6	5	3	2	2	0	0	18
Brunei	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	6
China, HK	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	1
China, Macao	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	NA	1
Singapore	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	1



IX. Typology of Existing Urbanization Policies in Asia

Present urban policy regimes in Asia

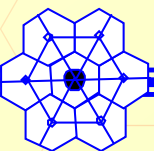
- **Bypassed urbanization policy**
- **The suppressive/anti-urbanization urbanization policy**
- **Low-priority/Undermined urbanization policy**
- **Selected city development urbanization policy**
- **Urban management as national urbanization policy**
- **Promotive/promotional urbanization policy**
- **Urbanization under comprehensive national spatial development policy**



X. National Urbanization Development Strategies

National urbanization development strategies applicable to the Asian countries as well

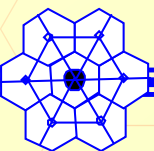
Strategy	Steps to be taken	Expected results	Likely shortcomings
<u>Strategy I.</u> Laissez-faire (also spontaneous urbanization)	Do nothing let the spontaneous process function.	Urbanization will take place spontaneously, with the dominance of a primate city for a long time.	This could result in continued polarization to the primate city and core region. It may be unacceptable politically.
<u>Strategy II.</u> Polycentric development of primate city region	Guided urbanization. Creation of satellites or subcentres linked by a metropolitan transportation system.	Improves the efficiency of the metropolitan region with increased attractiveness for industrial location and migration.	It may result ever larger and more polarized metropolitan region than the laissez-faire case.
<u>Strategy III.</u> Leap-frog decentralization within core region	Refinement of Strategy II, with a much larger core region with the promotion of urban centers outside the contiguously developed metropolitan region.	Same results as Strategy II, with more assured efficiency.	Inconsistent with the pursuit of spatial equity and may equally be unacceptable politically.



X. National Urbanization Development Strategies

National urbanization development strategies applicable to the Asian countries as well

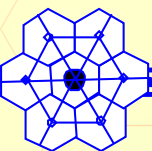
Strategy	Steps to be taken	Expected results	Likely shortcomings
<u>Strategy IV.</u> Counter magnets	Developing one or two major cities to compete with the primate city	Attracts industries and migrants	It may cause continued polarization and restrict growth opportunities for other cities and decentralization pattern of development.
<u>Strategy V.</u> Small service centers	Developing maximum number of service centers, smaller in size and in rural heartland, major dispersed pattern of urbanization.	Provides urban services to rural areas, opportunities for off-farm employment, and make migration to urban areas less attractive.	High cost of infrastructure and economic activities, and low efficiency since lack of agglomeration cannot generate sufficient growth and efficiency.
<u>Strategy VI.</u> Regional metropolis and subsystem development	Combined strategies IV & V to establish regional metropolises and urban hierarchy in one or two regions.	Maximizes downward spillovers into the smaller towns.	Since the regional subsystem approach cannot be implemented in all regions, it falls short to the objective of a NUDS.



X. National Urbanization Development Strategies

National urbanization development strategies applicable to the Asian countries as well

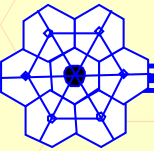
Strategy	Steps to be taken	Expected results	Likely shortcomings
<u>Strategy VII.</u> Growth centers	Selection of a limited regional centers and their development as regional foci of industry and migration.	Generates growth for various regions and decentralizes industries and migration.	Regional concentration, limited labor absorption capacity.
<u>Strategy VIII.</u> Development axes corridors.	Creating mutually reinforcing cities along transportation corridors.	Reduces transport cost, provides better connectivity and strengthens inter-city linkages.	Requires high investment to develop major transportation corridors throughout the country.
<u>Strategy IX.</u> Provincial state, department. capitals	Promoting subnational capitals (state, province, division, prefecture). It is a strategy for well dispersed urbanization.	Strengthens subnational planning and administrative decentralization.	Requires huge investment yet substantial investment may be in vain since many of the subnational capitals lack development potential.



X. National Urbanization Development Strategies

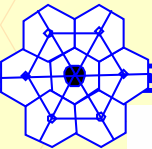
National urbanization development strategies applicable to the Asian countries as well

Strategy	Steps to be taken	Expected results	Likely shortcomings
<u>Strategy X.</u> Secondary cities	Promotion of secondary cities, selecting some subnational capitals where economic development potentials are high.	Gains growth, efficiency and it retains interregional dispersion elements.	Falls short of a NUDS, and may be combined with other strategies for maximum effectiveness.
<u>Strategy XI.</u> Hybrids	Combined two or more strategies, particularly mixing metropolitan and dispersion strategies.	Combined results will shorten the time requirement for the achievement of the objectives a NUDS.	Modest role, especially in the short run, for the designated cities located in the peripheral region.
<u>Strategy XII.</u> Hubs and gateways	Selecting and developing central and border locations with national strategic transport nodes	Export promotion and boosts cross-country, subregional, regional, and global trade along with	This is to complement the national distribution of cities which are difficult to develop along the border regions
<u>Strategy XIII.</u> Theme park	Designate various thematic cities in niche	Clustering innovations and boosting development in the locality	Large investment and strong thematic promotion require with a central of government



XI. Recommendation for National Urbanization Policy

- The national urbanization policy can be seen in the sequence of**
- i. a rapid urbanization with large and medium regional cities;**
 - ii. connect regional centres with cities and towns inside the region through corridors to medium size cities;**
 - iii. simultaneously promote small towns in agricultural heartlands;**
 - iv. integrate cities and towns within a region physically and functionally;**
 - v. develop a regional city as an independent regional central city and various specialized cities in each region; and**
 - vi. establish network of all cities in the country.**



Thank you for your attention

