

6 The Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP)

The environmental problems facing the rapidly growing cities and towns in the developing countries of Asia are often daunting in scale and in complexity. They are also compounded by the fact that much of the economic success of the last two decades, while benefiting large numbers of people, has been partly achieved through the serious neglect and abuse of the natural environment. Therefore, any national efforts to investigate these problems, to repair the damage done, and to develop effective methods to protect the environment in the future will have the greatest likelihood of success by engaging all sectors of the population at all stages.

By applying its well-tested, cross-sectoral, and participatory Environmental Planning and Management (EPM) process, the Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP) framework enables a city identify and effectively address all the existing priority environmental issues. The SCP does this by bringing together representatives from all sectors, ranging from poor communities, civil society, academia, and the media to the private sector, labour unions, political parties, and government agencies. Through discussions and consultations, these prospective partners develop a better, more thorough understanding of the complex impacts of urbanisation and industrialisation on the natural environment. As part of this process, such city-level consultations help to build a consensus among the various stakeholders to work together towards more equitable and sustainable forms of urban development.



In this EPM consultation in the Philippines, prospective partners analyse their city's impact on the natural environment.



The SCP is engaging a growing number of cities in China.

The SCP promotes and supports environmental governance at four key levels:

Locally, by supporting broad and inclusive working partnerships in 120 cities globally, including 66 cities in 10 countries in the Asia Pacific Region.

Nationally, by bringing together and supporting national partner networks comprising various line ministries; local governments; national research, training, and capacity-building institutions; and national local-government associations to strengthen EPM capacity-building, to document and disseminate EPM experiences, to adapt and adopt city-level best practices nationally, and to integrate lessons learned into national policy guidelines and legal frameworks.

Regionally, by facilitating city-to-city exchanges; by supporting technical co-operation among developing countries through partners' networks; and by knowledge-sharing through Expert Group Meetings and regional conferences. SCPs facilitate the formulation of city- and national-based Regional Environmental Agendas for discussion with relevant regional and global associations and programmes.

Globally, by applying the combined complementary strengths and specialised expertise of the two agencies (UN-HABI TAT and UNEP) at both local and global levels to synthesise experiences for awareness building, policy formulation, and national replication.



The discharge of raw sewage and industrial wastes into rivers and canals is a common practice in many cities of the region.

Since its launch in 1995, the SCP in Asia (SCP-Asia) has grown from a modest UN-HABI TAT Chennai city-based initiative, testing ways to integrate environmental concerns into urban development decision-making, to an Asia Regional Environmental Support Programme, based in UN-HABI TAT's ROAP-Fukuoka, that provides capacity-building and institutional strengthening support to some 66 demonstration cities and

their national partners in 10 countries with specialised technical assistance from the Global Programme Team in Nairobi.

SCP-Asia applies Agenda 21 principles to support implementation of the Habitat Agenda and MDGs 7/10 and 7/11, while building capacities to apply UNEP's global environmental conventions and agreements at the local and national levels.



Sustainable cities are those that offer their children a future.

SCP-Asia's Expanding City Network

Country	Number of Cities
China	5
India	12
Indonesia	3
Korea, Republic of	5
Mongolia	3
Papua-New Guinea	3
Philippines	9
Sri Lanka	18
Thailand	5
Vietnam	3
Totals: 10	66

SCP Eco-city Network in the Republic of Korea

Around 2000, a close partnership developed between the ROAP-Fukuoka and the Republic of Korea began at the turn of the century through Seoul National University (SNU) when Hanam City became the first city in the country to adopt the *Sustainable Cities Programme Environmental Planning and Management* (SCP-EPM) approach. This approach has been fostered nationally through the *SCP Eco-city Network* with Seogwipo City in taking the lead in March 2005 in cooperation with the Ministry of Science and Technology, SNU, and UNDP. In December 2005, Jeonju City and

Gangwon Province (comprising 18 cities and counties) signed Letters of Intent to join the network and adopt and adapt the lessons learned from Hanam and Seogwipo cities.

On a pilot basis, Seogwipo City introduced and further adapted the UN-HABI TAT SCP-EPM process and has contributed to developing a national eco-cities network based on participatory urban management and the building of broad-based partnerships. The project has supported international learning exchanges and experience sharing globally to derive lessons for possible replication nationally. These gatherings included a large delegation attending the *Havana SCP Conference* in June 2005 to learn from peer SCP city experiences. The SCP/EPM toolkits were then adapted, customised, and introduced to the city partners, along with *City Environmental and Water Resource Profiles*.

