

GMS Urban Working Group

ADB's ASEAN Smart City Initiative

Antonio Ressano-Garcia

Principal Urban Development Specialist

Southeast Asia Department, Urban and Water Division

Asian Development Bank



ASCI - Introduction

Objectives: Help ASEAN cities achieve livability goals through the adoption and adaptation of smart city digital solutions

Timeline: June 2019 to June 2024 - but extendable

Financing: ASEAN-Australia Smart City Trust Fund (20 million AUD from DFAT Australia) but open to other financiers

Implementation: through ADB's Southeast Urban Facility TA and an international consulting firm (Ramboll DK)



ASCI – Alignment with ADB

Urban Sector's Contribution to Operational Priorities under ADB Strategy 2030



OP1 | Addressing Remaining Poverty and Reducing Inequalities

- Promote social inclusion through affordability and accessibility of urban services, equity, and jobs.
- Ensure accessibility for citizens with special needs.
- Promote affordability and access of basic services for the urban poor.



OP2 | Accelerating Progress in Gender Equality

- Facilitate women's participation in urban planning and governance.
- Mainstream gender in urban transport.
- Create opportunities for women's employment and entrepreneurship.
- Develop smart technologies for the special needs of women.
- Address the needs of women migrants.



OP3 | Tackling Climate Change, Building Disaster Resilience

- Promote an integrated approach to address climate risks.
- Knowledge exchange on climate mitigation and adaptation measures.
- Build capacities of cities to utilize climate finance to achieve local environmental improvement objectives.
- Link nationally determined contribution frameworks to city-level greenhouse gas accounting.



OP4 | Making Cities More Livable

- Increase focus on new subsectors including slum development, informal settlements, and affordable housing for social inclusion
- Continue focus on gender, climate change, disaster and governance.
- Create strong links to create inclusive facilities for urban transport, energy, and health.



OP5 | Promoting Rural Development and Food Security

- Support rural-urban connectivity.
- Advocate innovative information and communication technologies to better link rural-urban economic linkages.
- Support food security through improved market integration and connectivity.



OP6 | Strengthening Governance and Institutional Capacity

- Facilitate the enhancement of citizen-centric approaches and partnerships.
- Enhance transparency and accountability of city governance systems.
- Improve service delivery and citizen engagement using the latest technologies.



OP7 | Fostering Regional Cooperation and Integration

- Encourage development of economic city clusters along economic corridors.
- Integrate cities into regional value chains and global production networks.
- Link border cities in climate action agreements and use of shared infrastructure.
- Facilitate cross-border transport flows.
- Facilitate implementation of cross-border power purchase agreements.
- Promote regional public goods and tourism.

Operational Priority 4
**Making Cities
 More Livable**



Strategic Operational Priorities

1 **Improve coverage, quality, efficiency and reliability of services in urban areas**

2 **Strengthen urban planning and financial sustainability of cities**

3 **Improve urban environment, climate-resilience and disaster management of cities**

Operational Approaches



- Build capacities and strengthen institutions
- Foster integrated city development
- Combine policy reforms, capacity development, institutional strengthening, and knowledge management
- Develop pilots and leapfrog to the latest technologies
- Prepare and implement smart city plans.
- Enhance city competitiveness and productivity.
- Support localization and implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.



- Support infrastructure and services in urban areas.
- Scale up the use of proven digital technologies
- Ensure water security and adequate waste management
- Provide energy security.
- Promote public mass transport.
- Support pro-poor and inclusive cities with social services, and safe and healthy urban environments.



- Prepare integrated urban plans
- Support inclusive and participatory planning.
- Use differentiated approaches to different categories of cities



- Support cities to maximize their internal financial resources.
- Promote land-based financing.
- Develop innovative external sources of financing
- Support utilities and service providers to develop PPPs
- Support urban governance improvement of utilities



- Support environment improvement projects
- Promote energy-efficient and environment-friendly technologies and processes
- Support risk-sensitive land use management
- Promote circular economy practices
- Adopt nature-based solutions.



- Support resilient cities
- Strengthen disaster preparedness and emergency response plans
- Support cities to localize nationally determined contributions (NDCs)
- Adopt a systems approach to urban infrastructure resilience

Subpillars

- Performance of urban and social services service providers improved

- Provision of urban infrastructure and services improved

- Regulatory, legal and institutional environment for more inclusive planning improved

- Reforms and policies for improved financial sustainability of cities implemented

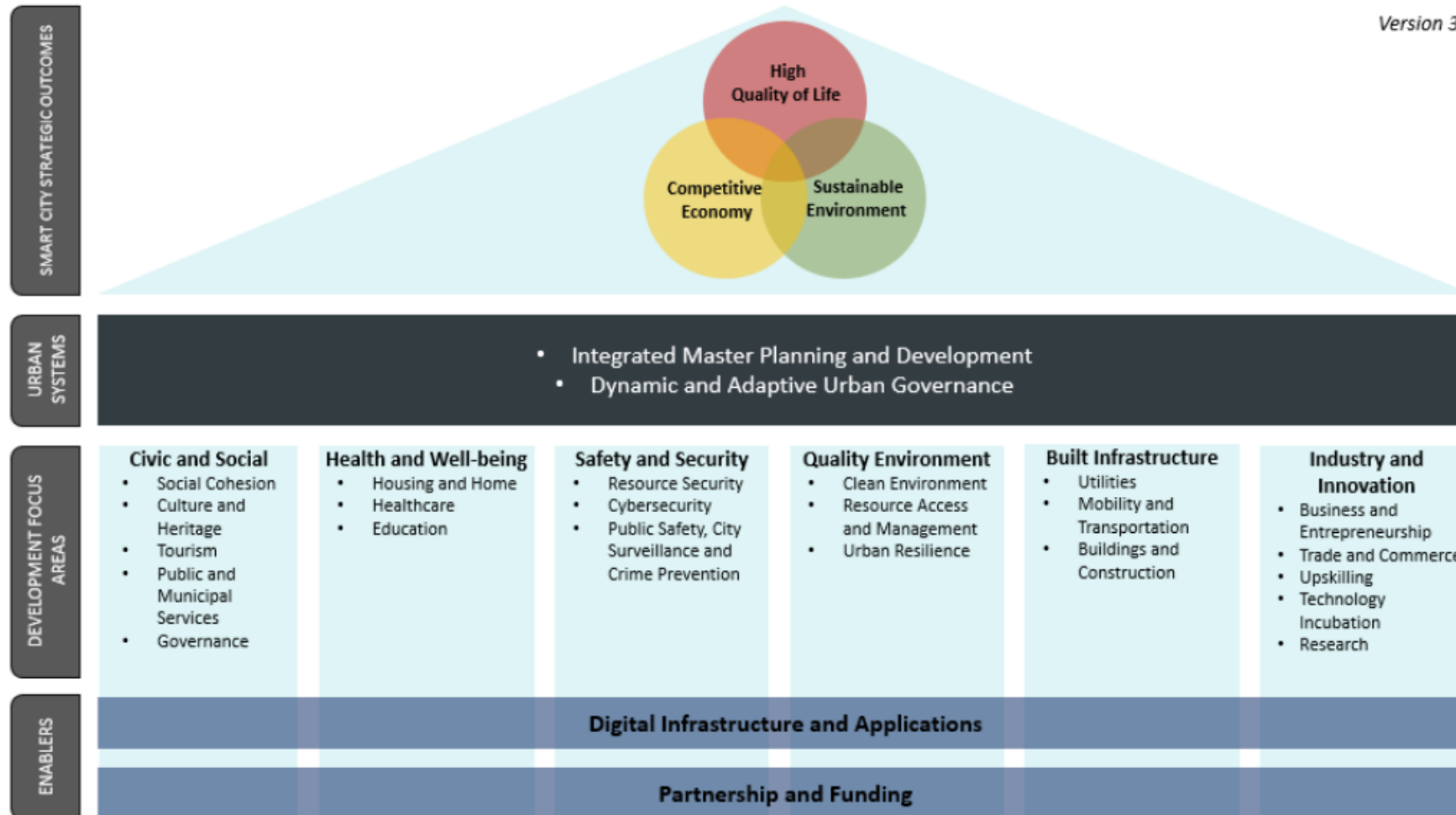
- Urban environment improved

- Capacity of cities for climate resilience and disaster risk management improved

ASCI – Alignment with ASEAN Sustainable Urbanization Strategy

ASEAN Smart Cities Framework

Version 3



ASCI – Work Scope and Approach

Digital Solutions improving three key functional areas of cities:

- Planning systems
- Governance & service delivery
- Financial management

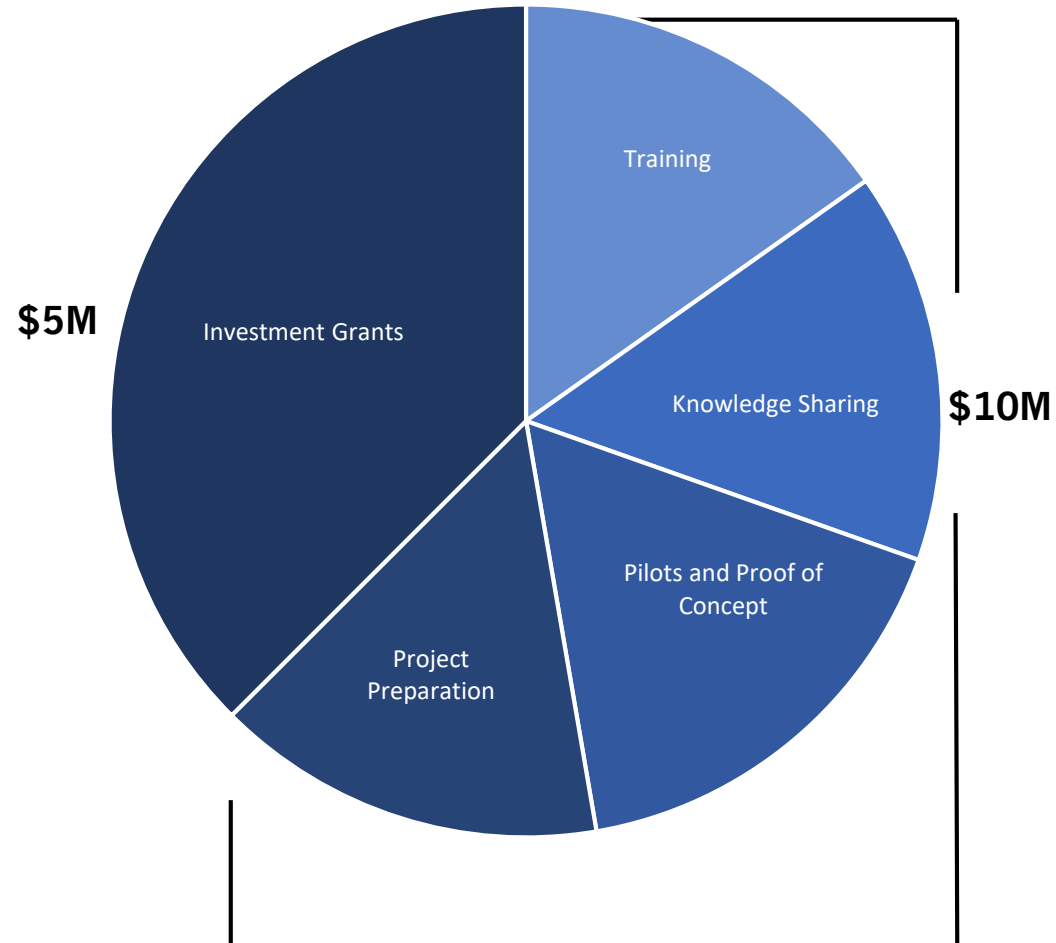
Addressing key cross-cutting themes:

- Climate Change resilience
- Social inclusiveness & gender equity
- Participation of private sector



ASCI – Financing and Activities

Current total Financing Plan
\$15 million



- Knowledge sharing and training to cover a large number of cities
- Pilots for a smaller number of cities
- Pilots to include goods and equipment
- Pilots to be replicated and/or scaled up under investment grants or loans
- City twinning across all activities

ASCI – Selection of indicative cities

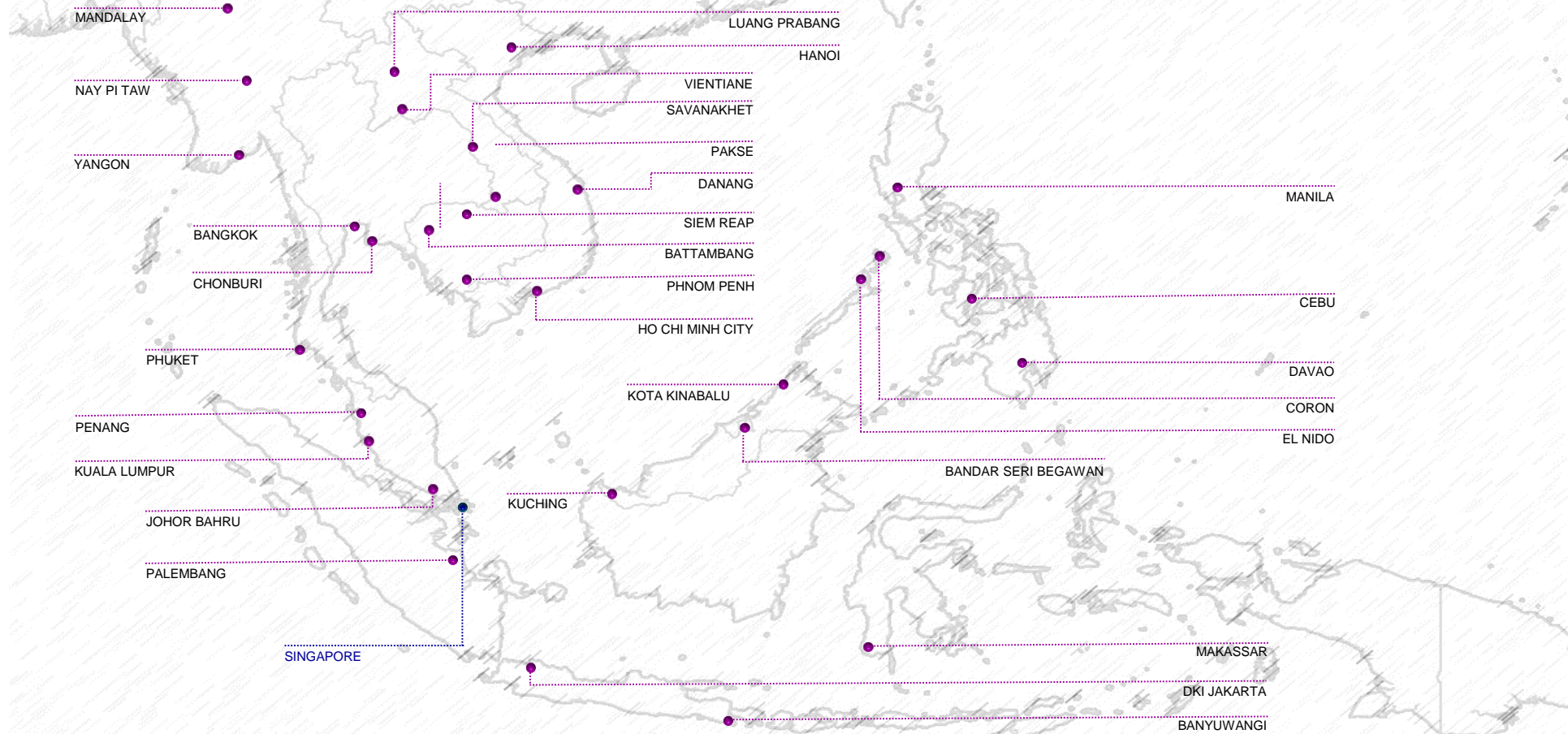
- Cities from ASEAN member countries
- Cities part of the ASEAN Smart City Network (ASCN)
- Cities from ADB lending and non-lending programs
- PRC: cities not eligible for pilots and investment grants but can participate in knowledge sharing and city twinning
- Engagement will be done at national level as well as city level

First batch of cities:

- Cambodia ----- Battambang
- Lao PDR ----- Kaysone
- Myanmar ----- Yangon
- Thailand ----- Khon Kaen
- Vietnam ----- Hue



ASEAN Smart Cities Initiative Indicative Cities



ASCI - Takeaways from ADB experience with Smart City Development

1. **Smart city is all about improving quality of urban life.** Using technology and data purposefully to make better decisions and deliver services that citizens need.
2. **There is no “blueprint” for a smart city development.** Cities face different urban development challenges and priorities for smart city strategies often differ significantly. The challenge is finding the right mix of entry points depending on smart city readiness of the city.
3. **Presence of a local smart city champion is a key element for success.** Whether a city official or an entire city department, there must be a strategic city-level focal to create an enabling environment and drive the process forward organically.
4. **Form strong partnerships and build multi-sectoral collaboration.** Creating digitally connected smart cities is too complex to be left to a few players and too interdependent to be addressed in a piece-meal way. Engagement with private sector and with local community (users) is crucial.
5. **Implement pilot projects for ‘easy wins’ to create momentum and enthusiasm.** Making smart cities real often starts by implementing a series of smaller changes that contribute to the overall transformation.

ASCI - Questions & Answers

- How do you define a smart city and do you have a national strategy or action plan for smart city development?
- Can you provide examples of initiatives at the city and municipal levels that enhance smart city development?
- In what ways do you think smart city features can enhance regional cooperation and the development of economic corridors?
- What added value could be brought into GMS Corridor Towns Development Projects by including smart city features?
- Can you describe specific opportunities for smart city development in future GMS urban development projects?

Thank you!

Antonio Ressano-Garcia

Principal Urban Development Specialist

Southeast Asia Department, Urban and Water Division

Asian Development Bank

Email: aressano@adb.org

