

New Perspectives and Strategies for Transport Development in Asian Megacities *Implications for Climate Change*

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Summary of presentation

Rapid economic growth along with growth of megacities is a characteristic feature of Asian region. As the form and structure of megacities generates huge transport demand, urban transport is a critical area where developing Asian megacities are struggling to properly address multiple problems simultaneously with limited resources and capacity. The climate change concerns have further complicated the challenges.

As the special context of Asian megacities clearly contrasts with the context of their developed counterparts in the West, a new perspective is perhaps needed to formulate appropriate strategies. When it comes to climate change concerns, the differences between developed and developing world is so contrasting that any attempt to apply one-size-fits-all kind of measures is bound to fail. On the other hand, the special context of developing Asian megacities is offering real opportunities to develop a low carbon transport system adopting a win-win strategy as opposed to the commonly perceived costly trade off between economy and policies for mitigating CO2 emission.

The key elements of new perspective involve appropriately defining CO2 agenda in the long-run strategy of transport development, and recognition of importance of timing for different policy measures. As the urban form and structure in Asian megacities favour public transport, development of reliable and higher quality mass transit system should be at the core of transport strategies. This should be supplemented with good coordination at different level, such as between transport and urban form, and among different transport modes. Most importantly, such new perspective and strategic policies offer Asian megacities a real possibility of adopting low-carbon path for transport development achieving perfect synergy between transport and climate change agenda.