



Climate Risks and Adaptation in Asian Coastal Mega-Cities

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Coastal cities particularly in the East and South Asia region are highly vulnerable to climate related risks including accelerated sea level rise, increased temperature and precipitation and increased frequency and intensity of extreme events. Many of the world's largest and economically dynamic cities are located around coasts, indicating the scale of population and assets at risk.

In response to client demand and recognizing the importance of addressing urban adaptation and major vulnerabilities of Asian coastal megacities, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the World Bank agreed to undertake analysis in several coastal mega-cities, and prepare a synthesis report based on the city case studies. The selected cities include Manila (led by JICA), Ho Chi Minh City (led by the ADB), Bangkok and Kolkata (led by the World Bank).

The focus of this talk is to (i) present the approach, findings and lessons from this joint agency study (ii) highlight initiatives being undertaken by the selected cities to address current and future climate related risks and (iii) discuss the policy implications for addressing climate adaptation in other coastal cities. More broadly, the talk seeks to stimulate a forward looking discussion on how and why coastal megacities in developing countries that already struggle with the provision of basic infrastructure and service delivery need to consider adaptation in the context of urban and regional planning.

Summary: This presentation will summarize the approach, findings and lessons from a recently completed study on "Climate Risks and Adaptation in Asian Coastal Mega-Cities" undertaken jointly by the Asian Development Bank, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the World Bank. The study is based on case studies from Manila, Ho Chi Minh, Bangkok and Kolkata. Initiatives being undertaken by these cities to address current and future climate related risks will also be highlighted and the policy implications for addressing climate adaptation in other coastal cities will be discussed.