



# Governance, social equity and climate resilience in Asia's cities

**Jim Jarvie**  
**Mercy Corps**

**Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network**

**E: [jjarvie@hq.mercy Corps.org](mailto:jjarvie@hq.mercy Corps.org)**



# ACCCRN Overview

## Profile

- 9-year-initiative launched in 2008
- \$59M of \$90M Global Climate Change Initiative
- Investing in 10 cities in 4 Asian countries and expanding

## Impact

*The resilience and capacity of a growing number of developing country/Asian cities in relation to current and future climate risks is enhanced, and through this work the lives of poor and vulnerable men and women are improved.*

## Outcomes

1. **Capacity of Cities** to plan, finance, coordinate and implement climate change resilience strategies
2. **Network for Knowledge**, learning and engagement
3. **Expansion**, deepening of experience, scaling up
4. **Organizational Excellence**, management, accountability and learning





# Mainstreaming into what?

- Assumptions of mainstreaming:
  - Rational policy and planning processes.
  - Working law, and enforcement of regulations.
  - Planning is a technical issue and not about politics and power.
- Findings:
  - Planning processes can be malleable.
  - Mainstreaming challenges relate to governance, not technical solutions.







# Planning - a technical exercise?

## *The big issue:*

- Planning outcomes are largely focused on election cycle dependent, tactical, cash-rich infrastructure development instead of long-term urban strategies protecting constituents.





# Planning – weak or unrepresentative?

Perception	Reality
The problem of policy and planning is often presented as a weakness of implementation needing capacity building as a solution.	Weak enforcement systems can be used to legitimize questionable practice including elite resource capture.
Urban expansion is chaotic because of weak planning and implementation.	Urban expansion arises from strong actors amassing benefits; pliable planning processes legitimize questionable practices.
Planning should bring order and a basis for law for urban management.	Policy and planning serves purposes other than representative governance.





# UCCR—alignment with global capital to address unequal power and politics?





# Engagement - what do we bring to the table?

Item	US\$ - millions	ACCCRN in Indonesia	Big grant	ADB urban - 2014
		\$3.2 m over 6 years	US\$ 10 m	US\$ 2.1 billion
Highway/km	\$ 7.5 m	0.4 km	1.3 km	273 km
25 floor building	\$34 m	0.1 units	0.3 units	61 units



# What is needed to make transformational change?







# Steps to transformation?

## **Engagement building blocks**

1. Explicit recognition of implementation challenges.
2. Develop “shared value propositions” with power centers, and particularly private sector investment groups.
3. Recognize and harness the real drivers of transformation.
4. Put **values** at the front of our agenda, including justice, rights, wellbeing.
5. Build public/private engagement and information freedom.
6. Use the power of information freedom through media and advocacy.



# Takeaway points



1. Urban resilience must build a long-term urban future different from current trajectories increasing inequality gaps.
2. Ask what “resilience” is for, who benefits and by what authority.
3. Adaptation/resilience “projects without processes” risk are maladaptive.
4. **Technical issues** are relatively easy.
5. **Governance** –core transformational adaptation – is usually hard.