ASEAN

Setting Guidelines for Sustainable Urbanization

Personal Introduction

Dear Delegates of the ASEAN,

My name is Rasmus Conrad, I'm 20 years old and currently studying Business Administration and Civil Engineering at the TU Braunschweig. It is my honor to chair this interesting Committee together with Younes. This will be my thirteenth MUN in general, my fifth OLMUN and the third time chairing here. Apart from MUN, I love to do sports, play the clarinet and the tenor saxophone and of course meeting with friends.

I'm really looking forward to this year's conference and hope we'll meet in person in June!

Dear delegates,

My name is Younes El Guernaoui and I am 17 years old. I am currently a student in the 12th grade at the Cäcilienschule here in Oldenburg. In my freetime I like to read and collect old stuff. I especially love old books or maps. Oh and I am a massive football fan as well. This will be my first time chairing an OLMUN committee and I am happy to have the opportunity to do so. I am looking forward to welcoming you all in the summer and I am sure that, in spite of the difficult situation we are currently in, we will have a great discussion, learn a lot and of course have lots of fun.

Younes El Guernaoui

ASEAN

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was created on 8 August 1967 by the foreign ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Aiming to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region, the member states intensified their cooperation with i.e. industrial projects. Reacting to the Vietnam War, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) was signed in 1976, stating ASEAN's commitment to resolve all differences, disputes and conflicts peacefully. Especially the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of one another has been an important rule until today. But the current coup of the military in Myanmar renewed the debate, whether ASEAN should aim to be more similar to the European Union or not.

Between 1984 and 1999 Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia joined the ASEAN as well as the TAC. In December 2008 the ASEAN Charter came into force, moving the ASEAN

closer to an "EU-style community" by turning ASEAN into a legal entity and aiming to create a single free-trade area in the region. The "ASEAN Way" stayed the most important rule, prioritizing a consensus-based, non-conflictual way of dealing with problems. With it's ten member states, ASEAN had a population of about 655 million people in 2019, which grows approximately 1.1% per year. It's GDP accounts for roughly 3.7% of the world with an average growth rate of 6% in the last decade, which is why the ASEAN is often called a global powerhouse with huge potential, projected to become the fourth largest economy in the world by 2050.

List of ASEAN countries GDP, International Monetary Fund 2020 estimates [edit]

Rank	Country	Population in millions	GDP Nominal millions of USD	GDP (Nominal) per capita USD	GDP (PPP) millions of USD	GDP (PPP) per capita USD
—	*World*	*7,758.16*[2]	*96,193,497*	*12,400*	*149,463,948*	*19,265*
—	United States	321.41	21,926,509	67,064	22,294,105	67,064
—	*European Union*	*513.44*	*20,458,029*	*39,318*	*23,109,934*	*45,010*
—	China	1,374.96	16,100,063	12,117	28,920,974[3]	20,500[4]
—	Japan	124.35	5,506,436	38,174	5,512,220	44,329
—	*ASEAN*	*668.56*	*3,574,932*	*5,347*	*9,815,708*	*14,682*
—	South Korea	51.67	1,646,814	36,750	2,408,301	46,612
1	Indonesia	272.60	1,273,809	4,380	4,103,298	15,052
2	Philippines	111.98	487,989	4,530	1,113,547	9,944
3	Malaysia	33.86	472,690	16,080	1,133,204	33,470
4	Thailand	69.31	457,212	6,839	1,430,411	20,639
5	Singapore	5.70	347,073	69,276	600,688	105,357
6	Vietnam	96.47	275,762	2,978	812,057	8,418
7	Myanmar	53.72	102,453	1,977	431,653	8,035
8	Cambodia	16.74	26,834	1,618	84,280	5,033
9	Laos	7.72	18,516	2,682	58,970	7,636
10	Brunei	0.45	16,553	42,044	47,600	104,780

Introduction to the topic

Urbanization in ASEAN member countries

Today 50 % of the people living in the ASEAN member countries are doing so in urban areas. This amounts to roughly 330 million people currently living in cities. Furthermore it is prognosed that an additional 70 million will join them by 2025 and 175 million by 2050 (urbanized population proportion 65%), making it one of the world's largest middle income emerging markets after China and India. This urban growth, the urban population grows by 3 percent every year, is especially substantial in middleweight cities with populations between 500.000 and 5 million inhabitants. However, the rapid urbanization taking place in many ASEAN countries can have various negative impacts, especially concerning the sustainability of cities. Rising income inequality, the

establishment of slums (in 2014 nearly 73 million people lived in slums, being extremely vulnerable to climate change related extreme events like typhoons, cyclones and flooding), uncontrolled urban sprawl, chronic traffic congestion, air pollution, and environmental damage are just a couple of examples that have to be mentioned in this regard. Due to this future rapid urbanization, there is a once in a lifetime chance for ASEAN to plan ahead for building sustainable, resource efficient and inclusive infrastructure for future cities.

ASEAN countries: Urbanization from 2009 to 2019
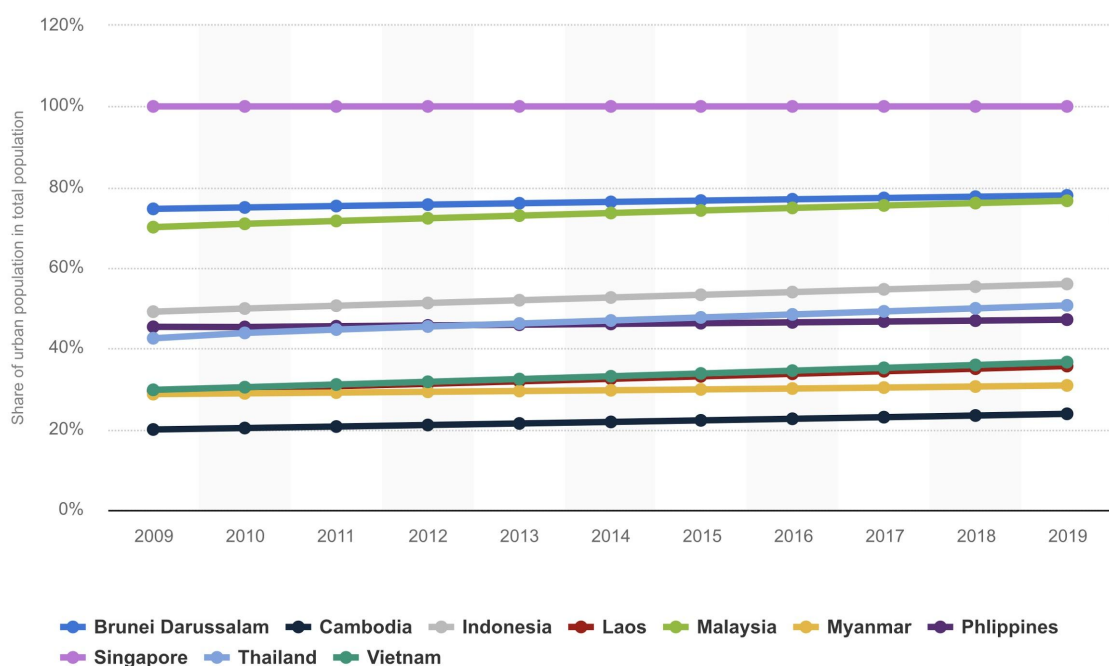
The Focus of our discussion

Due to urbanisation affecting every aspect of life, the ASEAN has put its focus on six priority areas in order to guide the discussion on Sustainable Urbanisation. These six priority areas are: the civic and social area, the health and well-being area, the security area, the area for quality environment, the built infrastructure area, and the industry and innovation area.

SOURCE: Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC), Team analysis
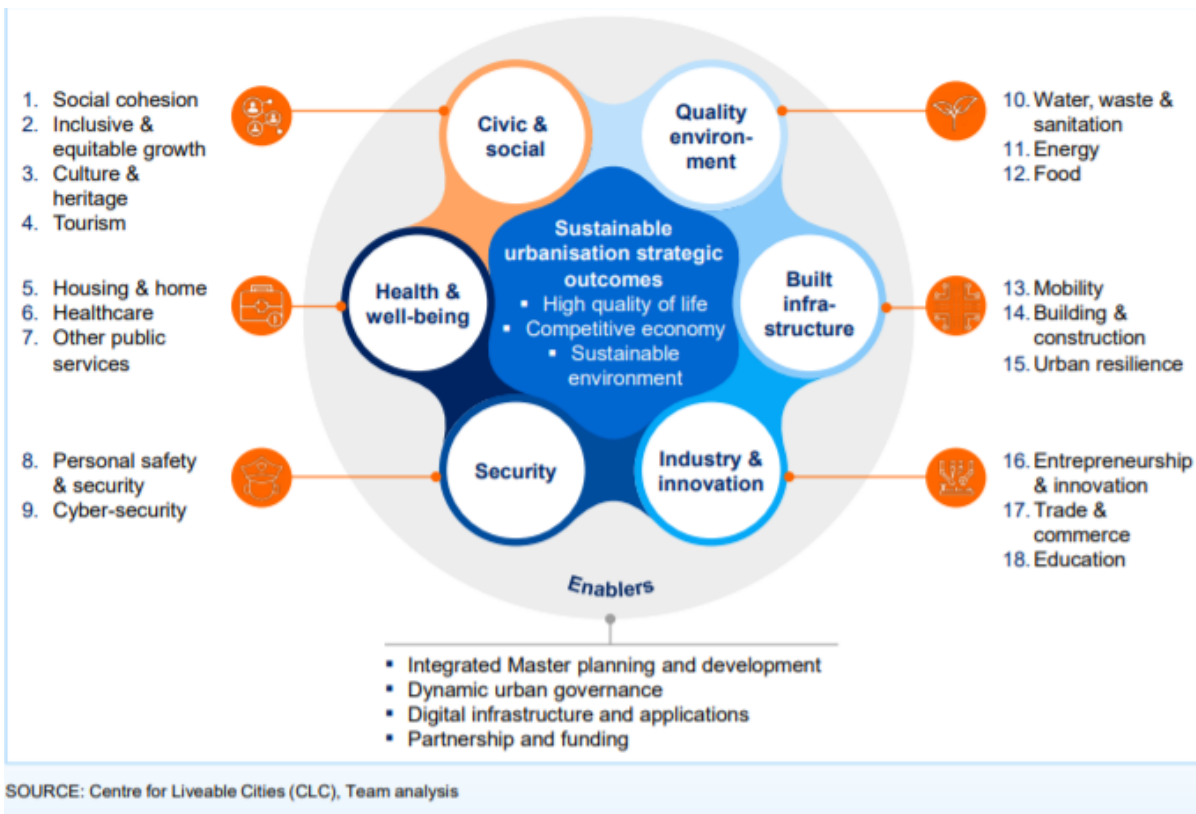
The ASEAN officially defines them as followed:

1. **Civic and social**

This relates to factors influencing the civil and social health of a city, and covers four sub-areas:

- **Social cohesion.** This sub-area includes actions promoting social cohesion, such as female empowerment initiatives, racial integration efforts, and youth or elderly focused initiatives. Meaning, these actions will touch on "inclusive and equitable growth", "housing and home", "healthcare", "entrepreneurship and innovation", and "education" but are included here, since they put specific social groups front and centre of their activities, catering towards their specific needs.

- **Inclusive and equitable growth.** This sub-area includes actions which address economic issues around ensuring that the benefits of city growth are distributed equitably among city residents (e.g. social safety nets, public work programmes creating jobs in impoverished urban areas, etc).

- **Culture and heritage.** This sub-area includes actions to preserve historical sites in cities and to promote local cultures as well as to help minorities retain their cultures.

- **Tourism**. This sub-area includes actions which promote the tourism sector, including infrastructure and talent development, and supporting policies (e.g. promotion efforts to key overseas markets).

2. Health and well-being

This relates to factors influencing the health and well-being of urban residents and covers three sub-areas:

- **Housing & home.** This sub-area includes actions focusing on improving the efficiency of public services to provide a pleasant and affordable living environment, including the provision of affordable housing, public spaces and facilities (e.g. public housing, slum upgrading, community centres, green spaces).

- **Healthcare.** This sub-area includes actions promoting access to affordable, high quality healthcare for residents.

- **Other public services.** This sub-area includes actions supporting the broader delivery of other services that improve health and well-being, such as emergency services and nutrition (e.g. food programmes, school meals, etc).

3. Security

This relates to ensuring the security of urban residents and covers two sub-areas:

- **Personal safety & security.** This sub-area includes actions that safeguard citizens against crime, terrorism, and natural disasters. This could include smart solutions to policing, disaster relief, and potential measures to combat other transnational issues (e.g. human trafficking).

- **Cyber-security.** This sub-area includes actions supporting the protection of networked infrastructure against cyber-crime and cyber-terrorism.

4. Quality environment

This relates to ensuring a high-quality urban environment and covers three sub-areas:

- **Water, waste & sanitation.** This sub-area includes actions which address the challenges of accessing and increasing the efficiency of water delivery, waste ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy 11 management, and sanitation. An example could be the creation of closed loop waste systems which seek to reduce, recycle, and reuse waste components.

- **Energy.** This sub-area includes actions promoting access to energy, higher energy efficiency, and switching to less polluting sources of energy. It includes smart grid developments in cities, the promotion of renewable energies (such as rooftop solar projects), and energy efficiency initiatives (outside buildings and vehicles which are covered in separate sub-areas).

- **Food.** This sub-area includes actions to enhance urban food supply, including promotion of urban agriculture, food traceability systems, and reduction of food waste or loss. Note: food nutrition issues are covered under the health and well-being area.

5. **Built infrastructure**

This relates to ensuring efficient, resilient, and environmentally-friendly built infrastructure and covers three sub-areas:

- **Mobility.** This sub-area includes actions promoting the access, affordability and efficiency of transport as well as reducing transport-related pollutants (such as greenhouse gas emissions). It includes the development of public transport infrastructure, ride sharing, smart transport solutions, and more efficient internal combustion engines.

- **Building & construction.** This sub-area focuses on improving the efficiency and sustainability of building usage and construction (e.g. optimising building space through shared offices, building energy efficiency, modular buildings, sustainable construction materials, smart buildings and construction).

- **Urban resilience.** This sub-area focuses on promoting urban resilience against disaster risks and potential impacts of climate change (e.g. city flood defences, early warning systems).

6. **Industry and innovation**

This relates to encouraging a strong and innovative business environment, and includes three sub-areas:

- **Entrepreneurship & innovation.** This sub-area focuses on promoting entrepreneurship and innovation (e.g. digital hubs, support for MSMEs).

- **Trade & commerce.** This sub-area focuses on promoting trade between cities through special economic zones and sector-specific development plans.

- **Education.** This sub-area focuses on producing an appropriately skilled workforce that can be resilient to changing industry needs and automation. It includes skills retraining, digital skills development, and vocational training programmes (with the exception of education covered in other areas such as for tourism and healthcare professionals).

We want to structure our discussion around these six areas as well. Therefore please prioritize them and the problems concerning them in your search for strategies.

What has been done so far?

As the graphic below shows, only 19% of all measures that have been taken so far are on a Global/Asia or ASEAN-level, while 70% are on National or Sub-national level. This is of course due to the fact that all specific actions need to be adapted to the special circumstances in every region or even city, but also that there is huge potential for actions on the ASEAN-level.

Additionally, some priority areas seem to be neglected by current actions, thus there is still a lot to be done.
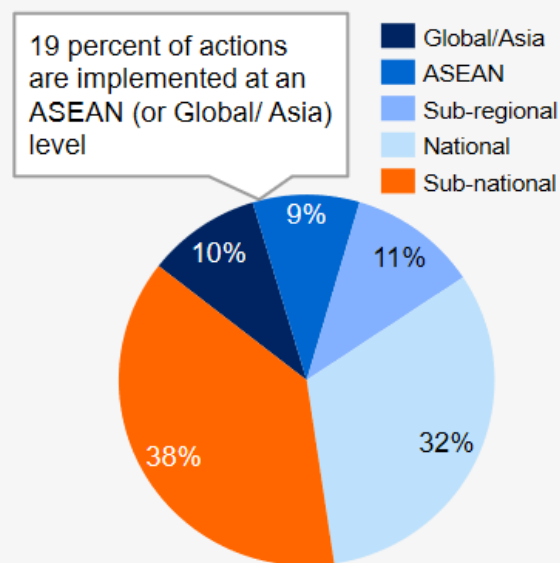
A stocktake reveals opportunities for further implementation at the ASEAN level plus varying focus across areas of sustainable urbanisation

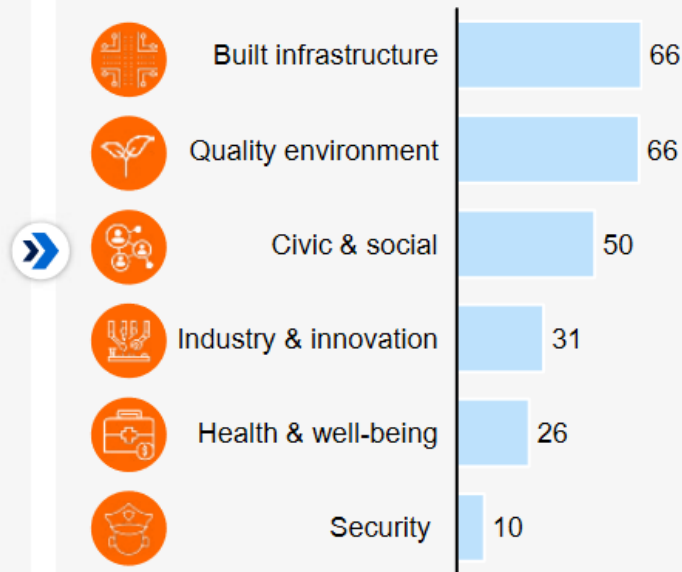**Existing actions by geographical coverage[1] and sustainable urbanisation areas[2]**

Percent of all existing actions

By geographical coverage

> 19 percent of actions are implemented at an ASEAN (or Global/ Asia) level

Legend:
- Global/Asia
- ASEAN
- Sub-regional
- National
- Sub-national

Pie chart values:
- 9%
- 10%
- 11%
- 38%
- 32%

By areas

Area	Value
Built infrastructure	66
Quality environment	66
Civic & social	50
Industry & innovation	31
Health & well-being	26
Security	10

1. Over 190 actions were examined across cities in ASEAN. These actions can be categorised into four levels: national/sub-national (e.g., NewWater programme in Singapore); sub-regional (e.g., BIMP-EAGA); ASEAN-wide (ASEAN Smart Cities Network); and Global/Asia (e.g., 100 Resilient Cities).
2. A large number of actions address more than one area and/or area. For example, building monorails in Phuket helps to increase tourism (in 'Civic & social') and also in mobility (in 'Built infrastructure'). We have counted these actions in both areas to ensure representation.

SOURCE: Desk research; Team analysis

Here are some examples of what has been done in the different priority areas:

1. **Built infrastructure:**

To improve mobility, Indonesia has improved the public transport system with energy efficient busses and generally much more public transport in several cities.

To mitigate the risks of flooding and to enhance the fresh water supply, Manila city, Philippines plans to plant 1.6 million hectares of bamboo and 600.000 hectares of mangrove at/in the big lake east to the city.

2. **Quality environment:**

In Surabaya, Indonesia a Clean and Green Programme promotes competition between neighbourhoods, rewarding those who reduce, recycle and reuse waste best, reducing the amount

of solid waste by one-third in only five years. Or in Melaka, Malaysia an initiative working with ADB installed more than 100.000 smart LED road lamps to potentially save up to 44 GWh per year.

Actions concerning food production in cities have been very rare, only the development of vertical farming in Singapore has increased and been quite a success.

3. Civic & social:

To support local engagement in infrastructure development, the Program Nasional Pemberdayaan Masyarakat – Urban in Indonesia utilises small grants to communities for local decision making on development priorities. The action is the largest community-driven development programme in the world covering all urban wards in the country with over 8.1 million beneficiaries. Since its inception 99 percent of urban communities reported having improved access to infrastructure and government services as a result of the action.

Some actions have included the redevelopment of parts of the city in order to attract tourists: Da Nang in Vietnam successfully rehabilitated the city's coastal area to become a popular seaside tourist destination. The city's action has generated over 660 million USD in tourist revenue in 2016 alone, also earning the title of 'one of the most beautiful beaches on the planet' by Forbes.

4. Industry & innovation:

For example, SWITCH-Asia's 'Mainstreaming Energy Efficiency Through Business Innovation' supports the adoption of energy and water saving technologies, including solar cells and two-level sensors in toilets, for over 750 Vietnamese enterprises by designing financial products that enabled enterprises to finance these investments.

Other actions include developing economic corridors between cities. For example, the 'Malaysia Vision Valley' project is a 153,000-hectare economic zone jointly developed by the public and private sector, namely Sime Darby. The project spans several cities, including Seremban and Port Dickson. It aims to attract high-technology industries, private universities and research labs.

5. Health & well-being:

Indonesia for example established a slum upgrading project called KOTAKU aiming to provide improved water sources, sanitation, roads, drainage and regular solid waste collection across 154 cities, costing 1.5 billion USD.

6. Security:

Establishing police posts in crime prone areas in Johor, Malaysia reduced the incidence of crime by five per cent in just one year, showing that already the presence of police is able to reduce criminality.

Indonesia started the "Giant Sea Wall Jakarta" project in 2014 which aims to protect Jakarta from flooding especially in the monsoon season, and to create a clean water bay behind the dike.

Possible Solutions

Of huge importance is the improvement of public transportation services, also car- or bike-sharing systems, since a lot of space, which is needed for housing or other things, is taken by cars and the air pollution could be massively reduced. Furthermore, waste management needs to be tackled by for example creating public-private partnerships with the aim to recycle a bigger share of the waste and cleaning the cities. Another obvious thing to do is to protect all green areas like parks or forests inside of cities or metropolitan areas, to support vertical farming and gardening projects and of maybe biggest importance, to plan many green spaces in new areas that will be urbanized. Furthermore the implementation of measures combating natural disasters can massively help cities with vulnerability in this regard. Examples for such measures could be building seawalls or barrier islands in order to lessen the impact of floods, or establishing local building codes, so that the construction in earthquake prone areas is required to build in ways more resilient to earthquakes.
As there are other regions in the world like in China or India that already had a similar development as it is predicted for the ASEAN region, it can be really useful to analyze their strategies and its outcome, but of course Singapore is already a good example in many ways.

Research

This is a Committee Guide which means it should guide you, help you to familiarize yourself with the topic and motivate you to further learn about Sustainable Urbanization in South-East Asia. Its purpose is not to limit your research to this guide, since your resolutions should be as diverse as possible in the end!
Please remember:
• Begin your research in time and don't wait until the last minute because understanding the topic and its complexity is essential for you to write a resolution, a policy statement and taking part in debate and in lobbying processes
• Use a variety of sources for your research! Be sure not to use just one single source for your whole resolution. Diversity in research is important, in order to reach a well-thought-out resolution with useful and debatable points. In addition, the more sources you use, the more you broaden your horizon on the topic. Also, use the links inside this guide!
• At a MUN conference you are not required to elaborate your personal opinion on the topic, but the opinion that your country represents. Therefore, you need to find out every detail about the situation in your country

• When researching the position of your country, look for various measures it has or has not taken yet, the existing programs and what possible new measures you as a representative of your country could introduce

• Elaborate a comprehensible, realistic resolution considering the position of your country! Of course, this resolution needs to be realistic considering that you are a representative of an existing country with existing positions. Within this frame, you need to find a self-contained solution, which you can present in our committee

Furthermore, we want to see some of your research results before the conference, since we don't want anyone to be unprepared in our committee. Because of this, we would like you to send us a policy statement of your country until 6 June 2021. Additionally, we want you to send us a draft resolution, which will be due on 13 June 2021. Keep in mind that these dates are the latest, so we advise you to send us these documents earlier in advance. For those of you, who do not know how to write a policy statement or a resolution, please look it up in the Official OLMUN 2021 Handbook. If you have any further questions, whether they concern preparation, the conference or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact us and consult us: asean@olmun.org.

Helpful Links:

Basic overview:
https://news.cgtn.com/news/7849544d33677a6333566d54/share_p.html
https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/urban-threats

ASEAN website:
https://asean.org/asean/about-asean/overview/

ASEAN Charter:
https://asean.org/storage/November-2020-The-ASEAN-Charter-28th-Reprint.pdf

ASEAN Sustainable Urbanization Strategy 2018
https://asean.org/storage/2018/11/ASEAN-Sustainable-Urbanisation-Strategy-ASUS.pdf

Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Transitions in the ASEAN Region: A Resource Perspective:
https://resourceefficientcities.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/ASEAN-Region-web.compressed.pdf

New Urban Agenda 2016 UN Habitat:
https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/12/nua_handbook_14dec2020_2.pdf

World cities report 2020:
https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/10/wcr_2020_key_findings_and_messages.pdf

Examples for successful sustainable urbanization in India:

https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/these-12-indian-cities-are-future-sustainable-urban-development

Indonesia moving its capital:
https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-49481090