



Findings for Future Research: Literature & Stakeholder Views

Introduction

Urban development in Southeast Asia has following trends/implications:

- Economically high growth rates.
- Geographically shifting urban “center of mass” to incorporate transitioning cities.
- Shifting economic dependence from agriculture to industries.

Result: Unsustainable growth due to rapid land degradation, deforestation and resource insecurity (food, water and energy).



Challenges:

- Access to finance.
- Inevitable natural disaster occurrences.
- Corruption.
- Inefficient government bureaucracy.
- Inadequately educated workforce
- “Energy Poverty” due to infrastructural gap.
- Limited private land ownership resulting in migration and conflicts.

=> **Lack of Good Governance!**

Climate Change Strategies:

- FDI and public-private partnership for funding.
- Potential for utilizing hydroelectric power.
- Share of renewable energy for rural electrification.
- Industrial energy efficiency.
- Energy-efficient cook-stoves to reduce fuel-wood use.
- New varieties of climate-resilient crops
- Weather index-based insurance schemes.
- Water and energy efficiencies, soil organic carbon, nutrient management.



Objectives

- **Organizational:** Enhancing well-being and welfare of the local people while alleviating poverty and vulnerability in the regions of concern.
- **Personal:** Looking into specific urbanization scenarios of Myanmar and neighboring countries from the viewpoint of sustainability.

Food for Thought:

Double Whammy for climate change?

- Rice-based economy (50% cultivated land)
→ *high contribution of methane*
- Unsustainable urbanization due to corruption and institutional barriers
→ *eliminating net carbon sink country status.*

Key Takeaways to address Poverty and Vulnerability:

- *Considering high GDP growth rate:* reducing institutional barriers is of high priority for the country.
- *Considering migration and conflicts:* providing voice to general public over social and environmental issues is necessary.
- *Considering large youth population:* reducing gap in quality education and awareness is urgent need.