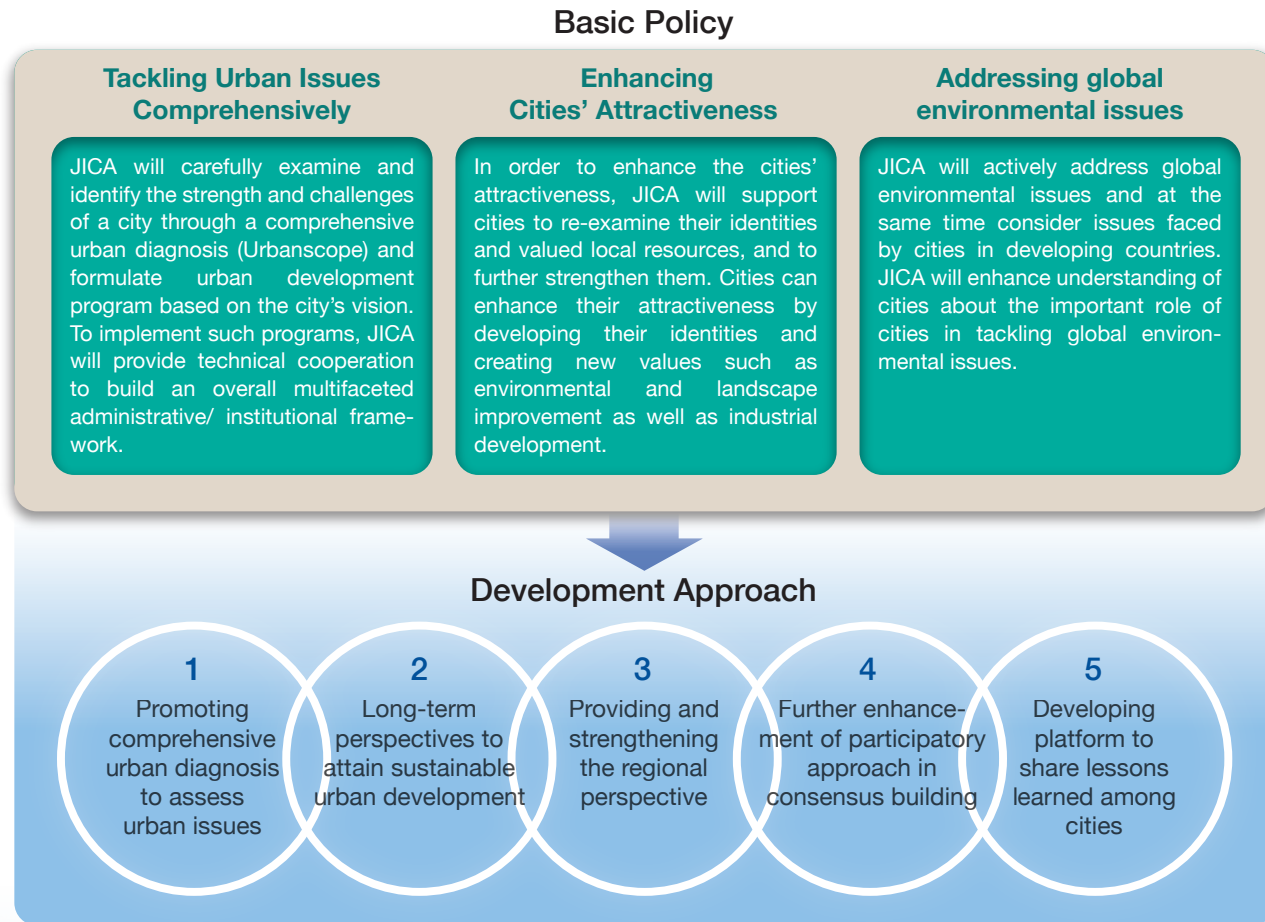


5

JICA's Approach

In order to build a sustainable city, it is important to identify priority issues, balance the five characteristics of a sustainable city, and strengthen urban infrastructure as well as urban management. Furthermore, a strategic approach is required

now more than ever to balance the development needs of each city and each global environmental issue. Based on such basic understanding, JICA will promote sustainable urban development in cities in developing countries.



Way Forward

JICA will apply the results of this study in a new program focusing on urban sustainability and will include it in existing ones. It will also continue to review and improve its policy to promote sustainable urban development.

Toward Sustainable Cities

JICA's New Challenge

Cities are of growing importance in the globalizing world. Cities in developing countries, in particular, face various problems associated with rapid economic growth and population increase, and they contribute significantly to the global environment.

JICA has conducted a study entitled "A Research on Sustainable Cities in Developing Countries", which reviewed long-term changes in the world, examined sustainable urban development practices, and identified JICA's future policy on and approach to sustainable urban development, the results of which are summarized in this pamphlet.

1

Growing Cities and the Global Environment

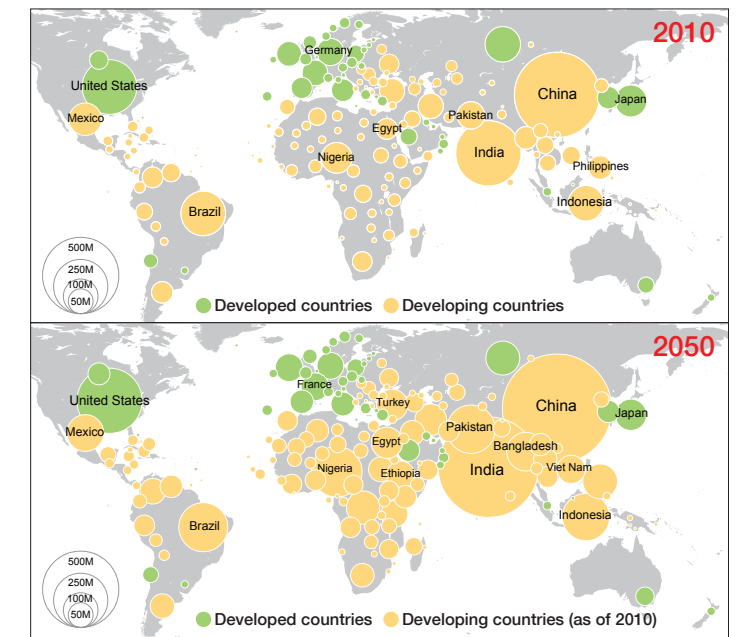
Urbanization has occurred all over the world. About half of the global population, or 3.88 billion people, live in cities today, and this figure is estimated to increase to nearly two-thirds of the overall population by 2050, or more than 6.34 billion.

In particular, the urban population in developing countries is estimated to increase rapidly and reach 5.32 billion, which is twice that in 2010. (UN.2014)

Cities have served as engines of economic growth. The more an economy grows alongside urbanization, the more important the role of a city becomes.

On the other hand, the environmental cost of cities has increased, as well; while cities cover only 2% of the Earth's total land area, they account for about 60–80% of the total energy consumption and contribute to 75% of Greenhouse Gas emissions.

It is thus essential to review the role of cities in order to protect the earth's environment for future generations.



Urban Population Growth (source : UNICEF)

2

Challenges and Strengths of Cities in Developing Countries

Cities in developing countries have a significant growth potential but also face various challenges as shown below.

Urbanization

- Potential for economic growth
- Attainment of demographic dividend

Social System

- Urban poor / rich-poor gap
- Insufficient urban infrastructure
- Urban slums and unplanned urban settlements
- Repression of political and social freedom
- Lack of social safety net
- Poor governance and urban management

Regional Resources and Environment

- Depletion of water and energy resources
- Risk of climate change/ increase in GHG emissions
- Lack of disaster resilience
- Weak environmental management

Globalization

- Increased potential for economic growth
- Increased foreign direct investment
- Increased risk of globalization
- Lack of employment opportunities and youth unemployment
- Lack of a diverse industrial sector

Attractiveness of Cities

- Own history, culture, and tradition (identity)
- Great historical heritage /natural environment (local resources)
- Underexploited local identity and resources
- Poor living environment, sanitary conditions, and security

Regional Coordination / City Cooperation

- Increased urban-rural disparity
- Rural-urban migration and increasing numbers of urban poor
- Lack of regional coordination

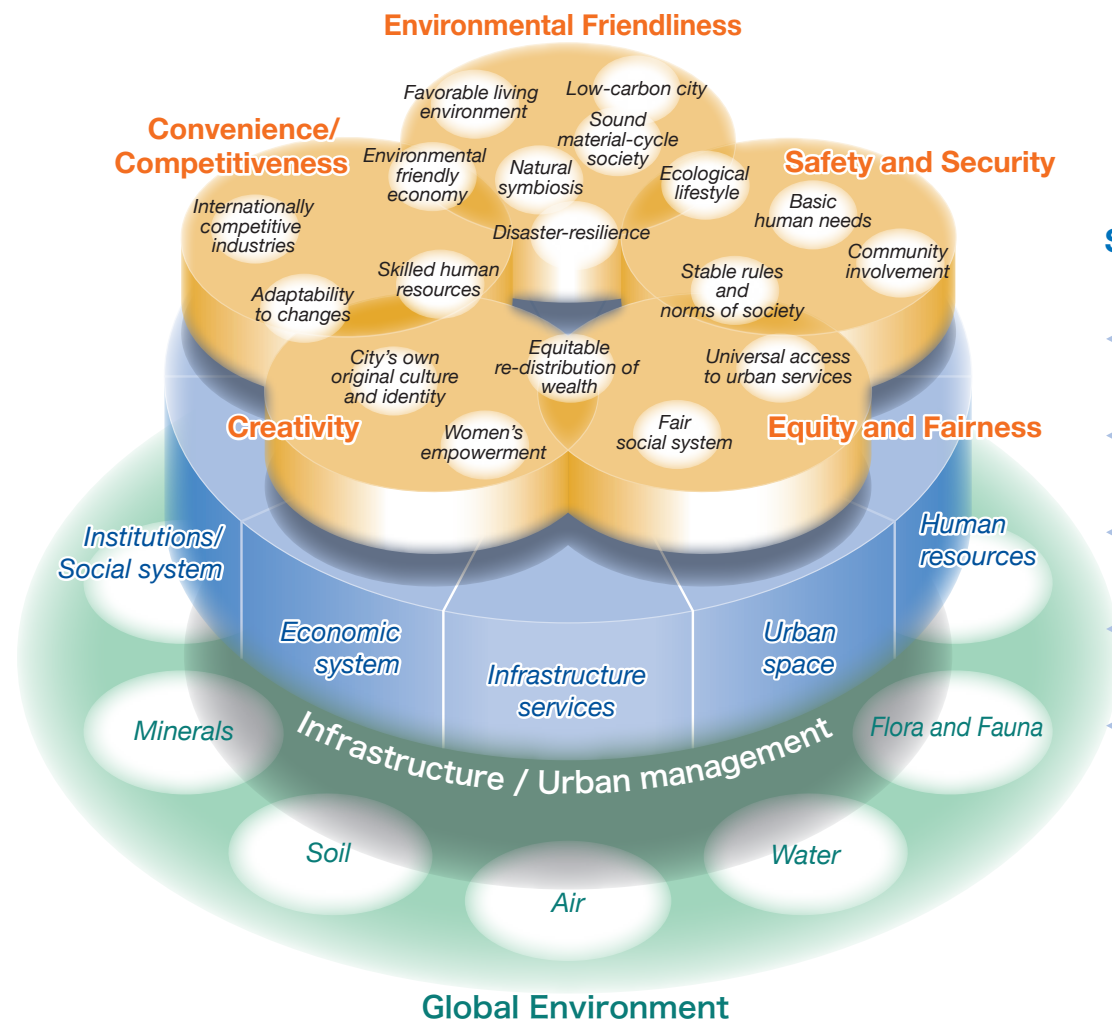
JICA developed a concept of a sustainable city. Following the concept, sustainable cities should have a good balance of the following five basic characteristics:

(i) equity and fairness, (ii) safety and security, (iii) environmental friendliness, (iv) convenience and competitiveness, and (v) creativity.

Urban infrastructure and urban management are a foundation of a sustainable city. All economic and social activities in cities are supported by urban infrastructure and urban management which covers social systems and relevant services. It is also important to ensure the participation of the

citizens and enterprises in urban management in order to respond flexibly to environmental changes both locally and internationally.

Moreover, the most fundamental condition to achieve urban sustainability is to have a sustainable global environment. While cities create significant impacts globally in terms of their consumption of energy and resources. They are also severely affected by the global environment. Cities are vulnerable to the depletion of energy resources and are seriously affected by the rise in sea levels and concentrated heavy rains as a result of climate change.

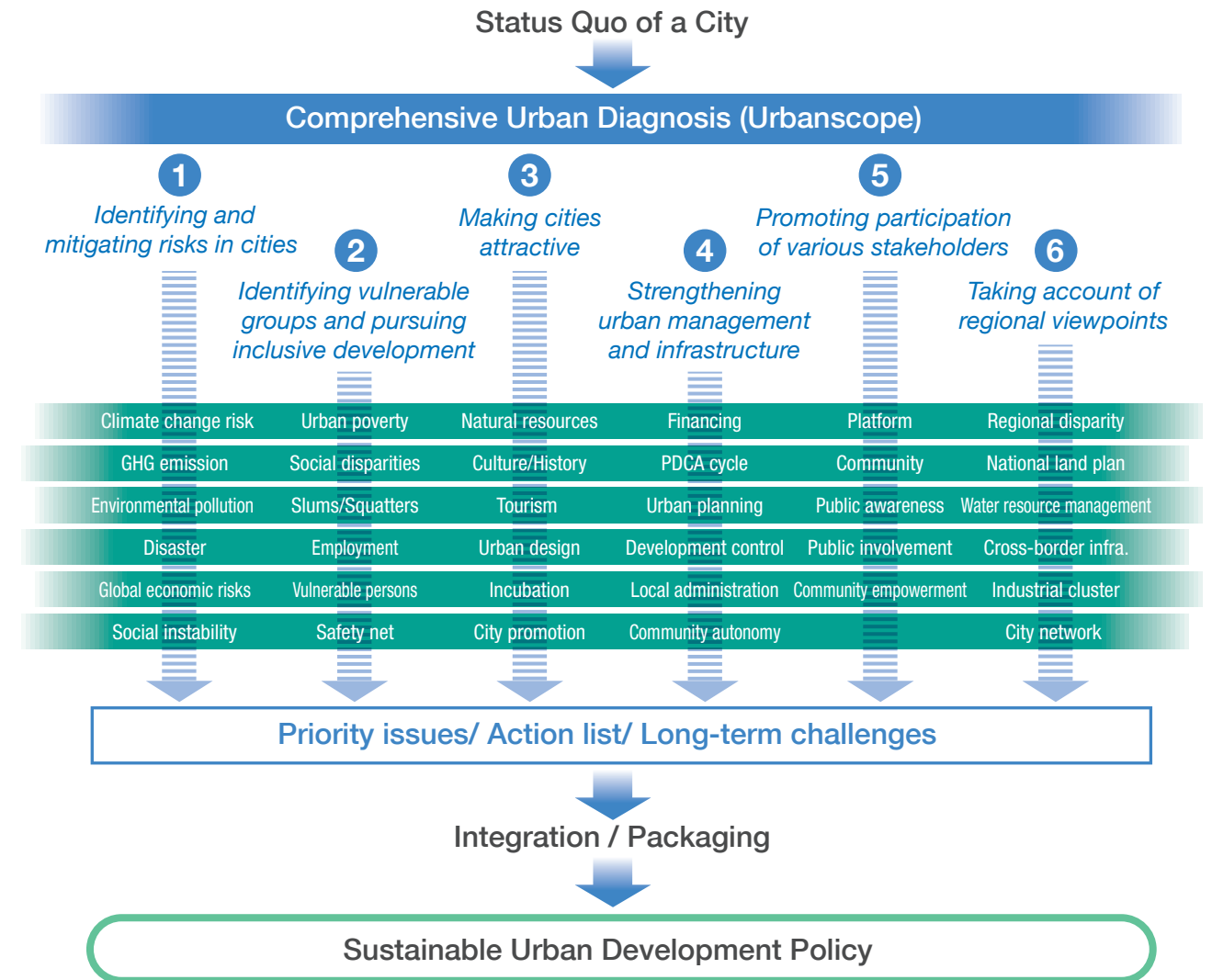


Cities in developing countries are required to respond to globalization and global environmental issues in parallel with promoting rapid economic growth and urbanization, resulting in a complex situation. On the other hand, developing countries have their unique potential for dynamic growth.

In order to realize a sustainable city, there is a need to consider the following perspectives; the “diversity and complexity” of situations and stakeholders, the “temporal scope” related to changes in the city and the stage of development of the city, the “spatial scope” for interacting mutually

with surrounding areas, the “creativity” of the local characteristics and the “collaboration” of various actors in the city.

Based on the sustainable cities concept (Figure on page 2), JICA proposes a comprehensive urban diagnostic tool which has termed as “Urbscope”. It has six diagnostic areas, highlighting the strength, issues, and risks of each city. “Urbscope” will be used to draw up a list of measures to harmonize the global environment and realize a sustainable city. Those measures will be reviewed by various stakeholders and expanded into a sustainable urban development policy.



Illegal housing on a hillside in Gecekondu (Ankara, Turkey)



Motorcycles on a flooded road due to heavy rains (Hanoi, Vietnam)



Traffic on a major corridor is at a standstill (Dhaka, Bangladesh)



Riverside slums near highrises (Cebu, Philippines)



Poorly treated disposal site (Cebu, Philippines)



Pagoda-centered urban development (Yangon, Myanmar)