Urban Risk

With increasing trend of growth and urbanization, role of the cities is becoming more important and vital for the development of both developed and developing countries in Asia-Pacific Rim, but this certainly will also lead to growing risk of climate change and disaster impacts to the cities and their urban communities. Focusing on urban climate resilience strategy and adaptation works in Asia-Pacific region is very important, because more than 60% of the increase in the world's urban population in the next 30 years will occur in Asia, a region that already has a greater urban population than any other continent.

If look into the city as an organism, and its citizens and civil communities are the cells and body parts, and its government is the brain, all of them play equal important role. Any significant external impact to the organism will affect all its parts and cells. Therefore, the citizens and urban communities, while depending on city government's policy and actions, are the vulnerable ones who bear the burden of current and future climate and disasters impacts. At the same time, they should as well be actors to cope with and adapt to the impacts and consequences, thus become more resilient to those changes.

The resilience of urban communities to rapidly changing climate and environment is comprehensive and requires robust systems and capacity, which do not currently exist in many cities of the developing countries in the Pacific Rim. Cities may have greater climate resilience because of the existence of infrastructure, but poor urban populations often do not benefit from these infrastructures or are more vulnerable because of their dependency on substandard infrastructure or improper planning and governance.

The water environment which includes water body and sources (such as rivers, channels, lakes and ponds, ground water), water transport routes, water supply system, drainage and sewage system, is always playing a crucial role for any city. Besides, the climate and water related risk of the urban population in Pacific Asia is expected to be higher than in rural areas because of higher population density, higher exposure to various pollution sources, problems in water quality and quantity (flood, drought and lack of safe drinking-water), in some places lack of hygiene and sanitation facilities and improper urban planning and management. Moreover, the risk is much higher for the urban poor and the vulnerable social groups such as women, children and the elders, which had been most adversely affected.

Urban risk incorporates wider issues. The current research focuses on the role of communities in urban environment, especially to focus on resilience and environment and disaster reduction actions.