Rural-urban-global linkages and the creation of small and medium-sized cities under conditions of dynamic change: The Greater Mekong Region

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Introduction:

Some points on the theme of this conference

- “Creative cities” (Charles Landry, Richard Florida, and others) – fashion vs. post-industrial reality? Applicability in other parts of the world?
- Especially in developing countries, where most of the urban growth happens?
- “Creative” vs. “livable” cities?
- Sustainable urban development?
- Objectively verifiable criteria in ranking exercises, hence usefulness for city planning and management?

- My topic differs considerably – on “creating cities”, looking at Southeast Asia and the forces generating new towns and re-creating cities
Structuring Paper and Presentation

1. Introduction
2. Creative cities, (re-)creating cities – basic concepts
3. The Greater Mekong Region – focus on linkages and changes since 1986
4. A typology of cities and towns – theory and reality; and some examples
5. Policy considerations and prospects
6. Concluding remarks
Creative cities, creating cities – some basic concepts

From the hype around the “creative class”, to...

1. A much broader analysis:
   Peter Hall’s monumental work on the “golden age” of cities in history, with fabulous historic examples, from Periclean Athens to Renaissance Florence and the 1980s Silicon Valley

2. An excursus to current city ranking and city marketing methods, and then to

3. Southeast Asia and my topic proper.

Peter G Hall, 1998
Creative City Planning Framework

A Supporting Document to the Agenda for Prosperity: Prospectus for a Great City

Toronto city marketing by “AuthentiCity”
The Curse of the Creative Class

“A New Age theory of urban development amounts to economic snake oil…”

The Vitality Index™

When you measure variables not normally measured, when you ask questions not normally asked, then examine the issues at hand.

**Scope and methodology**

The Vitality Index™ posits a framework that encompasses art and the everyday language of the citizen. Its goal is to provide the same kind of rigor that is applied to demographic and growth. … (etc)

The CCI Vitality Index™ (VI) is customized to cities under the objective, computer-modeled analysis that incorporates input based on a city’s values and aspirations. … (etc)

**How to use The Vitality Index™**

The VI can be used as a comparable benchmark, demonstrating aspects of how a successful city thrives with its culture. Coupled with on-the-ground assessments with communities, the VI can assist cities with policy and investment decisions, focus on new infrastructure and community developments, devise new business and tourist attraction approaches, encourage community interaction, and build consensus. It can help uncover opportunities, stimulate and test new ideas.

➔The Vitality Index™ is expected to debut in the fall of 2009. Future editions of the VI will include international cities from the Americas, Europe, and Asia.←

http://www.creativecities.org/vi.html
EIU's ten best cities in the world
(Economist Intelligence Unit, 2009)
“Best cities to live and visit”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
<td>Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Helsinki</td>
<td>Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>=9</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>=9</td>
<td>Zurich</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

City ranking, Germany
(Roland Berger consultants, 2008)

The “best city” in Asia? [most livable, most modern, least expensive, friendliest, sexiest, culturally authentic (or advanced?), best food, best historic conservation…]
“Cities – Engines of Rural Development”…
(the paradoxical motto of World Habitat Day 2004 – !?!)  
After two decades of urban-growth policies focused on mega-cities…, policies and programmes on rural-urban interaction and balanced dev’t (1970-80s) have been “re-discovered” by most international agencies, and in research. Some random examples…. 

UN Habitat    Earthscan    UN ESCAP    ILO
3 The Greater Mekong Region

- Overview
- The ADB regional study (2004-2006) on Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia
- Transition processes (socialist to market economies) since 1986, overlapping with
- Broad transformation processes (rural to urban based, agricultural to industrial/service based)
- Study focus on rural-urban-global linkages and the ongoing policies and programmes
ADB is the leading international agency in helping the Greater Mekong Region in its transformation processes, now explicitly stressing the importance of the urban sector, and its rural, regional, and global linkages

Eleven flagship programmes
The international roads forming the “backbones” of the economic development corridors, but there is much more…
The background of the ADB funded Greater Mekong research

1. Regional ADB assessment study, 2004-06
2. Review of GMS Programmes ("corridors", and others) and country policies and programmes
3. The study was expected to lead to policy dialogues and guidance to countries and other donor agencies
4. Follow-up work in three countries (ADB, others)
5. The forthcoming ADB book (2010) takes the essence of the study to a wider audience
A dynamic macro-region with very different regional patterns......Common denominators?... Feasible policy recommendations?
## Key indicators – four selected countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Viet Nam</th>
<th>Laos</th>
<th>Cambodia</th>
<th>Thailand</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP/cap ($)</td>
<td>622</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>2,537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population (mil., 2005)</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pop growth (%)</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban growth (%)</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urbanization (%)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agric contrib GDP (%)</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty ratio (current)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural pop. density (pers/km² arable land)</td>
<td>1,031</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pop./devt dynamics, characteristics</td>
<td>intermediate</td>
<td>early</td>
<td>early</td>
<td>relatively advanced</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification of rural-urban linkages

Underlying key questions: Can we create **mutually beneficial relations**? Can we exclude detrimental r-u-l?

**Broad classification of r-u-l (all interrelated):**

- Physical (roads, energy)
- Economic
- Social
- Population movements
- Services (government, infrastructure)
- Political & organization

**Overlap of connections in geographic space and socio-economic setting:**

- Local-regional
- Direct metropolitan-rural
- Global-local!

**Generally -- Flows of information and innovation**
Small and medium-sized cities’ important roles in regional development – the global context

Positive rural-urban interactions and regional development

International context: access to international markets for small and medium-sized producers, with stable commodity prices. Foreign investment supports local production, imports do not compete with locally produced goods.

National context: equitable distribution of and access to land, regionally balanced growth strategies including satisfactory provision of infrastructure, credit facilities for small and medium-sized producers, and basic services (education, health, water and sanitation); revenue support to local government; regulated institutional structure of markets.

Local governance: accountable, with adequate resources and capacity, identifies local needs and priorities and responds to them; supports forward and backward linkages between agriculture and services and industry located in local urban centres; regulates local natural resource management; integrated with national planning.

Regional rural area
- Equitable access to farming assets, including land
- Adapt production to demand and increase incomes
- Expanded demand for basic non-farm goods and services increases
- Livelihood diversification increases incomes, investment in farming and demand for goods

Local urban centre(s)
- Access to urban local markets and processing facilities, retaining value-added
- Increase production of non-farm goods and service provision
- Increase in non-agricultural employment

National and international urban centres
- Expanded markets for regional production
- Provision of a diversity of goods and services

Negative rural-urban interactions and regional development

International context: limited access to international markets for small and medium-sized producers, unstable commodity prices. Foreign investment concentrates in large-scale export production, imports compete with locally produced goods.

National context: inequitable distribution of and access to land, regionally imbalanced growth strategies including limited provision of infrastructure, credit facilities for small and medium-sized producers, and basic services (education, health, water and sanitation); lack of support to local government, unregulated institutional structure of markets.

Local governance: unaccountable, with inadequate resources and capacity, not integrated with national planning.

Regional rural area
- Farming dominated by large export-oriented units
- Demand for sophisticated non-farm goods and services, mainly by wealthier cities
- Limited opportunities for local income diversification and low incomes from small-scale farming trigger migration
- Local labour shortages and decline in small farm production

Local urban centre(s)
- Limited role in basic service provision and provision of cheap imported goods
- Economic and population stagnation and decline

National and international urban centres
- Produce bypasses local centres in favour of larger export centres, value-added invested outside the region
- Increase demand for imported goods
- Increased influx of migrants from impoverished rural households

Source: Satterthwaite and Tacoli, 2003
For more than 15 years, the GMS borders have been open. Cross-border flows (formal and informal) are growing rapidly..
Study content and methodology

1a Review of Dev’t Policies and Programmes influencing RUL (national) – emphasis on “transitions”

1b Review of Dev’t Policies and Programmes influencing RUL (international) – emphasis on macro-regional integration
  • Mekong Region Programmes (ADB “Flagship” Programmes)

2 Focus on specific towns and areas as case studies >>> Criteria:
  • Government preferences for certain areas
  • Border areas illustrating sub-regional linkages
  • Conceptual interest and content of “lessons to be learned”
The seven case studies provided interesting insights in regional differences of development.
4. Typology of cities and towns

- Theory and reality: the Taaffe-Rostow model
- Southeast Asian regional development patterns explained
- Urban typology
- Emerging urban places, including ‘maverick towns’ – some examples
The well-known model (Rostow -Taaffe) of the changing spatial structure of regional economic development
Greater Mekong Region: Population densities

(ADB Environment Atlas, 2004: 116)

Striking similarities with the Rostow-Taaffe model...!
From regional linkage patterns to region-specific development strategies

1. Assessing regional conditions (through thematic mapping) to summarize opportunities and constraints, emphasis on spatial development

2. Deriving a typology of development patterns (shown in two regional synthesis maps)

3. Establishing a framework for differential intervention in the urban system

4. Specific recommendations for policy development and support programmes for the three countries
Typology of development patterns

Seven land-use and spatial interaction patterns (shown in the first synthesis map):

1-2: Metropolitan core, peri-urban zones
3: Metropolitan influence area
4-6: Three types of agriculture-dominated areas
7: Hilly/mountainous areas

Development patterns - in combination with flow systems shown in the second synthesis map
## Understanding urbanization: shifts in rank (Viet Nam) 1979-1999

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Ho Chi Minh City</td>
<td>2,633</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ho Chi Minh City</td>
<td>4,209</td>
<td>1.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hanoi</td>
<td>821</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hanoi</td>
<td>1,524</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Haiphong</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Haiphong</td>
<td>570</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Danang</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Danang</td>
<td>544</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bien Hoa</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bien Hoa</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>2.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Can Tho</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Nhatrang</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>1.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Nhatrang</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Can Tho</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Hue</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Hue</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>1.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Nam Dinh</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Quy Nhon</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>1.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Thai Nguyen</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Vung Tau</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>2.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Quy Nhon</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Long Xuyen</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>1.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Long Xuyen</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Rach Gia</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Hongai / Halong</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Vinh</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>1.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>My Tho</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Nam Dinh</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>1.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Vinh</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Halong</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>1.57</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Vung Tau</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Thai Nguyen</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>1.14</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Dalat</td>
<td>82</td>
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<td>Dalat</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>1.76</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Rach Gia</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>Phan Thiet</td>
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<td>2.14</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Cam Pha</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Cam Pha</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>1.82</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Phan Thiet</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>My Tho</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>1.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,916</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,958</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1.68</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: The long-term growth (1979-1999) is shown for the first twenty largest cities only. Number and rank are identical for 1979. For 1999, all cities are numbered as in 1979, but in addition, their rank is shown which is now different, as some "newcomers" have grown faster. So the ranks of several cities have changed in 1999. The names of the first twenty cities are shaded in the same way for both years.
# Urban Population Change Cambodia (1,000 inhabitants) 1962 (last census) – 1998 (first census since national re-establishment 1992)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>A Pop 1962 (1)</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>B Pop 1998 (2)</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Factor A:B</th>
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<tr>
<td>Phnom Penh</td>
<td>355.9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,078.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Phnom Penh</td>
<td>2.74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Battambang</td>
<td>36.8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>124.3</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>3.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kampong Cham</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>97.1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Siem Reap</td>
<td>3.12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pouman</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>85.4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mongkol Borei</td>
<td>Probably &gt;10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kampong Chhnang</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sihanoukville</td>
<td>3.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kampot</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>45.3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kampong Cham</td>
<td>1.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krachek</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>44.6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Suong</td>
<td>Probably &gt;10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Svay Rieng</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>43.4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Poipet</td>
<td>Probably &gt;10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siem Reap</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>41.7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Kampong Chhnang</td>
<td>2.21</td>
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<td>Kampong Thum</td>
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<td>41.5</td>
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<td>Kampong Speu</td>
<td>2.42</td>
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<td>Prey Veiang</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>36.0</td>
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<td>Kampong Thum</td>
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<td>Kep</td>
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<tr>
<td>Takeo</td>
<td>7.3</td>
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<td>27.2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Pouman</td>
<td>1.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sihanoukville</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Smach Meancheay (KK)</td>
<td>Probably fast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Prey Veiang</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>17.0</td>
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<td>Svay Rieng</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Kandal</td>
<td>Probably all small towns with fast growth</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Stueng Traeng</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Srae Ambel (K Kong)</td>
<td>1.37</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Kampong Leay (Prey V)</td>
<td>1.39</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Takeo</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>12.1</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Sarroing (Outd Mean)</td>
<td>1.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Labansieek (Rotan Kiri)</td>
<td>1.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Kep (3)</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 15 urban areas (1962) 582.9
Total B: The same 15 urban areas (1998) 1,672.8

(1) All 15 “urban” areas as per Census of 1962
(2) Urban areas as per “urban study” after Census of 1998 (listing for places with more than 10,000 only)
(3) Kep constitutes a special problem of “urban” definition: In 1962, a great part of the total population would have been rated as “urban”, while in 1998, only 4,000 of the total population of 28,000 was rated as living in an “urban” area.

Colour Code:
- No comparable data for 1962 – grey;
- Average growth (around the value of 2.87) – light yellow; above average (3.2 – 3.3) – orange; high (5.5 – 9.5) – red;
- Below average (as low as 1.5) – blue.
Thematic mapping: Comparative coverage of urban influence zones: VN, Cam, Lao
GMS Synthesis Map 2:
Manifestations of Global Development and Regional Integration
Scope for (re-)creating urban places

- Global-local linkage effects – Opportunities and constraints for local authorities and states
- Functional classification (not just administrative)
- Capital agglomerations
- Secondary cities
- Rural service centres
- Market towns
- Maverick towns…..?
Border towns: Real impacts and doubtful speculations

Lao Cai (Viet), Bavet (Cam), Moc Bai (Viet), Davansanh (Lao)
Boom towns
Poi Pet (Cam), Aranyaprathet (Thai)
Policy considerations and prospects

• The ideal – the ‘virtuous cycle’ of rural-urban linkage dynamics (Douglass, 1998): internalizing the multiplier effects (employment, manufacturing, inputs)
• The goal – pro-poor and pro-rural urban development
• Envisioning differentiated support programmes
• Follow-up projects
Policies impacting on urban development

1. Trade and other policies, internat’l influence factors

2. Decentralization policies

3. Explicit urban development policies

Policy formation and implementation

>>> Different roles, from national level down to local level
Secondary cities programmes
Battambang, Sihanoukville (Cam), Lang Son (Viet), Savannakhet (Lao)
Factors: Local economic infrastructure – drainage, roads, markets
Suong (Cam), Vietnam market town
Factors: Accessibility, transport, telecommunications

Luang Namtha (Laos)
## Urban development support - components and responsibilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Sub-components (some typical examples)</th>
<th>Main responsibility (indicative – to be adjusted to country context)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Urban economic development</strong>&lt;br&gt;complementary to rural development in the hinterland: Public-sector actions enabling and attracting private-sector investments</td>
<td>Markets&lt;br&gt;Business and exhibition centers&lt;br&gt;Small industrial and commercial zones&lt;br&gt;Storage warehouse facilities</td>
<td>Local authorities&lt;br&gt;Chamber of commerce and similar institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Urban infrastructure improvements</strong>&lt;br&gt;Public-sector investments in various types of urban infrastructure and facilities</td>
<td>Improvements in roadways, drainage, wastewater, solid waste – for key commercial and residential areas</td>
<td>Local authorities and line agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Public services for rural hinterland</strong>&lt;br&gt;Provision of key public services for the hinterland (higher education, vocational training, health services) as well as for the resident urban population</td>
<td>District-level schools, hospitals, vocational schools and training courses, focus on agriculture, handicraft production and SME</td>
<td>Line agencies at provincial or regional levels (education, health, commerce, agriculture)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Physical rural-urban linkage improvements</strong>&lt;br&gt;Road and other network infrastructure links between urban center and hinterland</td>
<td>Farm-to-market roads and bridges&lt;br&gt;Electricity transformer stations for SME&lt;br&gt;Local telephone network</td>
<td>Line agencies at provincial or regional levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. Capacity strengthening for urban management</strong>&lt;br&gt;Management assistance and training</td>
<td>Local area development plans (using “mobile planning team”)&lt;br&gt;Special training courses and on-the-job assistance</td>
<td>Local authorities&lt;br&gt;National agencies with extension offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6. Training and network support services for business</strong>&lt;br&gt;SME entrepreneurs and key staff</td>
<td>Start-up assistance for business networks&lt;br&gt;Training courses</td>
<td>Business associations&lt;br&gt;National agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support 'packages' A, B, C, D</td>
<td>Package A</td>
<td>Package B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main objectives</strong></td>
<td>Urban economic development to complement rural development programmes in regions with high potential</td>
<td>Overcoming urban infrastructure deficits in economically advanced regions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Components</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Local economic development (“hardware” and “software”)</td>
<td>Highest priority</td>
<td>Secondary priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Urban infrastructure improvements (water supply and sanitation, power, waste disposal and others)</td>
<td>Secondary priority</td>
<td>Highest priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Public facilities and services (especially those serving the hinterland)</td>
<td>Complementary</td>
<td>Complementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Physical rural-urban linkages (especially rural feeder roads and transport services)</td>
<td>Complementary</td>
<td>Complementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Urban management and planning (local government and administration)</td>
<td>Additional priority</td>
<td>Additional priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Training for business (SME entrepreneurs and key staff)</td>
<td>High priority, as part of economic start-up</td>
<td>Secondary priority</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Concluding remarks

- Findings from the analysis
- Pro-poor and pro-rural urban development policies
- Selected recommendations from the study
- What can the paper contribute to the conference?
Findings from the analysis (1)

- General transition from mainly “peripheral” to increasingly “central” regional conditions, by increasing regional integration:

- Diversified impacts of the ongoing regional integration processes (both national policies and ADB-led regional programmes)

- Growing “central” influences, and receding but strongly resilient “peripheral” areas (especially in Lao PDR and NE Cambodia)
Findings from the analysis (2)

Four main interacting factors:

- Historical development (including urban centres)
- Geographic proximity and direct access from areas of higher centrality
- Availability of agricultural land
- Density of population, associated with higher degrees of development and rural-urban-regional exchange flows

>>> It is difficult to separate GMS flagship impacts from those more general development factors
Essential recommendations

1. Develop national strategies for urban development
2. Adopt specific packages for small and intermediate cities
3. Feeder road systems complementing major road projects
4. Cross-border development programmes towns and regions
5. GMS exchange programme in the field of urban management and capacity building

These recommendations are essentially being followed up by appropriate programmes and projects
Finally - What can this paper contribute?

1. Scope for “creative cities” in an early urbanizing region?
2. Just a post-industrial fashion or anything serious, with real benefits?
3. More relevant approaches to assisting the Mekong countries in their efforts at (re-) creating urban centres?
4. How valid are the rural-urban-regional-global linkage concepts, really?
Thank you for listening……