

Housing and Urban Infrastructure

Breakout session 1C

of Material conditions

Asia-Pacific Conference on

Measuring Well-Being and Fostering the Progress of Societies

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1. Why do we try to measure well-being? --- to foster progress.

2. Then, the indicators should have policy implications.

3. They should facilitate better understanding of

Inputs-Outputs-Outcome-Satisfaction

Some features of “housing and urban infrastructure”

1. Diversified need depending on preferences, natural conditions etc.
2. Sets conditions for living environment, social and economic activities
3. Important perspective to grasp urban concentration and urban poverty

Diversified need depending on preferences, natural conditions etc.

- (1) A number of objective indicators are available:
size of houses, population density, ratio of owner-occupied houses ... , length of roads, railways, ...
money spent on infrastructure
- (2) But they may not be good measures of satisfaction, as people have different needs.
city vs. rural life, large vs. small family, tropical vs. cold weather
- (3) Simple international and/or regional comparison may not work.
- (4) In addition, management of infrastructure may matter much.
- (5) Comparison of objective and subjective indicators may be desirable.

2. Sets conditions for living environment, social and economic activities

- (1) Indicators of other fields may be heavily dependent on housing and infrastructure.
e.g. **Infant mortality** may depend on tap water availability and access to hospitals
Social activities may depend on the way communities are designed in new towns
Industrial activities and **employment** may depend on the ease of transportation.
- (2) Analyses on the relationship between **outcome** and **physical** indicators will be helpful.

3. Important perspective to grasp urban concentration and urban poverty

- (1) The issue of urban poverty may not be fully captured by “ housing and urban infrastructure ”
- (2) Land price and affordability is a good viewpoint. What else?
- (3) Regional disparity can be an important factor for national well-being.

APEC' Growth Strategy

APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) leaders agreed on the “Growth Strategy” in 2010 at Yokohama,

despite the divergence among the 21 economies, with respect to development stage, cultural background, industry structure, and political system,

5 pillars of the APEC Growth Strategy

Inclusive, Sustainable, Balanced, Innovative, Secure

All relevant to well- being