

Urban

Overview

Asia's population is now predominantly urban, presenting both opportunities and challenges. SEI Asia's urban research cluster focuses on promoting sustainable, just and inclusive urban development, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as Sustainable Cities and Communities, Good Health and Well-Being, and Responsible Consumption and Production. By aligning with international commitments like the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, we strive to support cities and towns in their journey towards equitable, resilient, healthy, and livable urban environments.

SEI Asia's collaborative urban research emphasizes integrated, cross-sectoral action from all stakeholders. Through knowledge sharing, capacity building, co-development of solutions, and on-the-ground implementation, we introduce innovative ideas to inform policymakers, the private sector, and civil society on sustainable urban development practices.

Areas of focus

A central theme of SEI Asia's urban research is ensuring urban areas promote inclusion and equity, while fostering environmental sustainability. This is done through three key research areas:



Improved health and well-being in urban centers



Sustainable consumption and production in urban



Building resilient and inclusive urban communities



Research initiatives



City Health and Well-being (CHeW):

Working with Udon Thani in Northeast Thailand and Nakuru in Kenya, we engage local communities and municipalities to achieve more equitable, livable, and environmentally sustainable cities.



Towards inclusive urban waste systems:

This project investigates the role of informal waste collectors in Bangkok's plastic recycling, aiming to promote a circular economy and understand household consumption and waste generation behavior.



The impact of air pollution on the world of work for women and youth in East and Southeast Asia:

We review how air pollution affects workers and seek evidence-based recommendations for improving air quality and employment opportunities.



Just Transitions in Cities:

Developing a conceptual framework to understand just urban transitions, focusing on the labor sector, including informal workers.



Transdisciplinary Research Towards SDG Achievements on Air Pollution:

Collaborating with Chulalongkorn University, we assess air pollution exposure and its impact on outdoor workers' health, aiming to inform policy dialogues with local decision-makers.



The Potential of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) to improve urban public health outcomes:

Working with municipal and community stakeholders to build understanding of the interlinkages between urban planning, public health and disaster risk reduction and assess how NBS could be applied as an innovative approach.

