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Assessing transformative adaptation in Southeast Asian coastal cities
Coastal impacts and risks

Source: Figure SPM2


https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/summary-for-policy-makers/b/spm2-13102018/

How the level of global warming affects impacts and/or risks associated with the Reasons for Concern (RFCs) and selected natural, managed and human systems

Five Reasons For Concern (RFCs) illustrate the impacts and risks of different levels of global warming for people, economies and ecosystems across sectors and regions.

Impacts and risks for selected natural, managed and human systems

Confidence level for transition: L=Low, M=Medium, H=High and VH=Very High
Transformation and justice

IPCC 2018:
Path dependency reinforces dominant political-economic structures and processes

Exacerbates inequalities, erodes adaptive capacity

“Adaptation pathway approaches to prepare for 1.5°C warmer futures would be difficult to achieve without considerations for inclusiveness, place-specific trade-off deliberations, redistributive measures and procedural justice mechanisms to facilitate equitable transformation.” (IPCC 2018: 459)
Transformative adaptation

Not just large-scale measures, but qualitative shift

Tackles root causes of poverty, inequality and environmental destruction

Can be driven by innovative policies that are grounded in normative values of social justice and environmental sustainability

www.unrisd.org/flagship2016
Visions

• Modern, global city
• Waterfront city
• Centers of wealth and capital accumulation

→ Informal settlements usually not part of these visions
Values

• Inform visions and urban development planning
• Planning often based on ideas of limited number of experts/elites
• Social justice concerns?
Voices

• Leadership – to guide inclusive transformation process
• Participation – to foster mutual understanding
• Recognition – of informal dwellers, their individual strategies and needs

Image: Peg Hunter via Flickr, https://flic.kr/p/28rwgm1
From idea to practice

• Rights-based approach
• Linking climate change related needs with immediate needs, e.g. WASH, health, housing

• De-idealize the concept to ease translation into practice
  • «transformative enough» adaptation
  • Build on incremental adaptation and push for more radical solutions where feasible
Thank you!

www.unrisd.org/rpb27