



9TH ASEAN POSTGRADUATE SEMINAR 2015  
FACULTY OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT, UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA  
**GLOBAL BUILT ENVIRONMENT IN  
TRANSITION**

**“PUTTING THEORY TO POLICY;  
POLICY TO ACTIONS”**

KEYNOTE BY :

**MADAM KHAIRIAH TALHA**

Hon. President, EAROPH

Member, Board of Town Planners Malaysia



# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Our Built Environment in Transition
- Global Efforts to address the transition
- The Sustainable Development Goals
- From 15,000 feet to 3 feet level
- Professionals in transition
- Way Forward



# Definition of “Transition”

- A transition is a change from one thing to the next, either in action or state of being (*vocabulary.com*)
- **a** : passage from one state, stage, subject, or place to another ; **b**: a movement, development, or evolution from one form, stage, or style to another (*Merriam-webster*)
- The process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another (*Oxford Dictionary*)



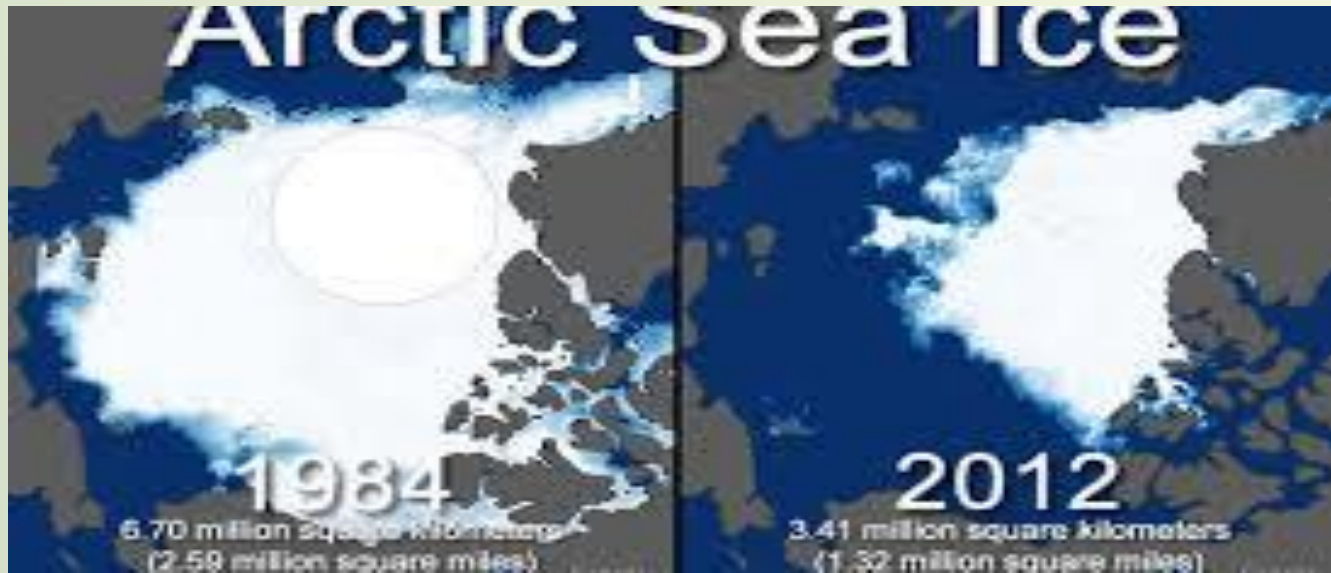
# Our World is in Transition



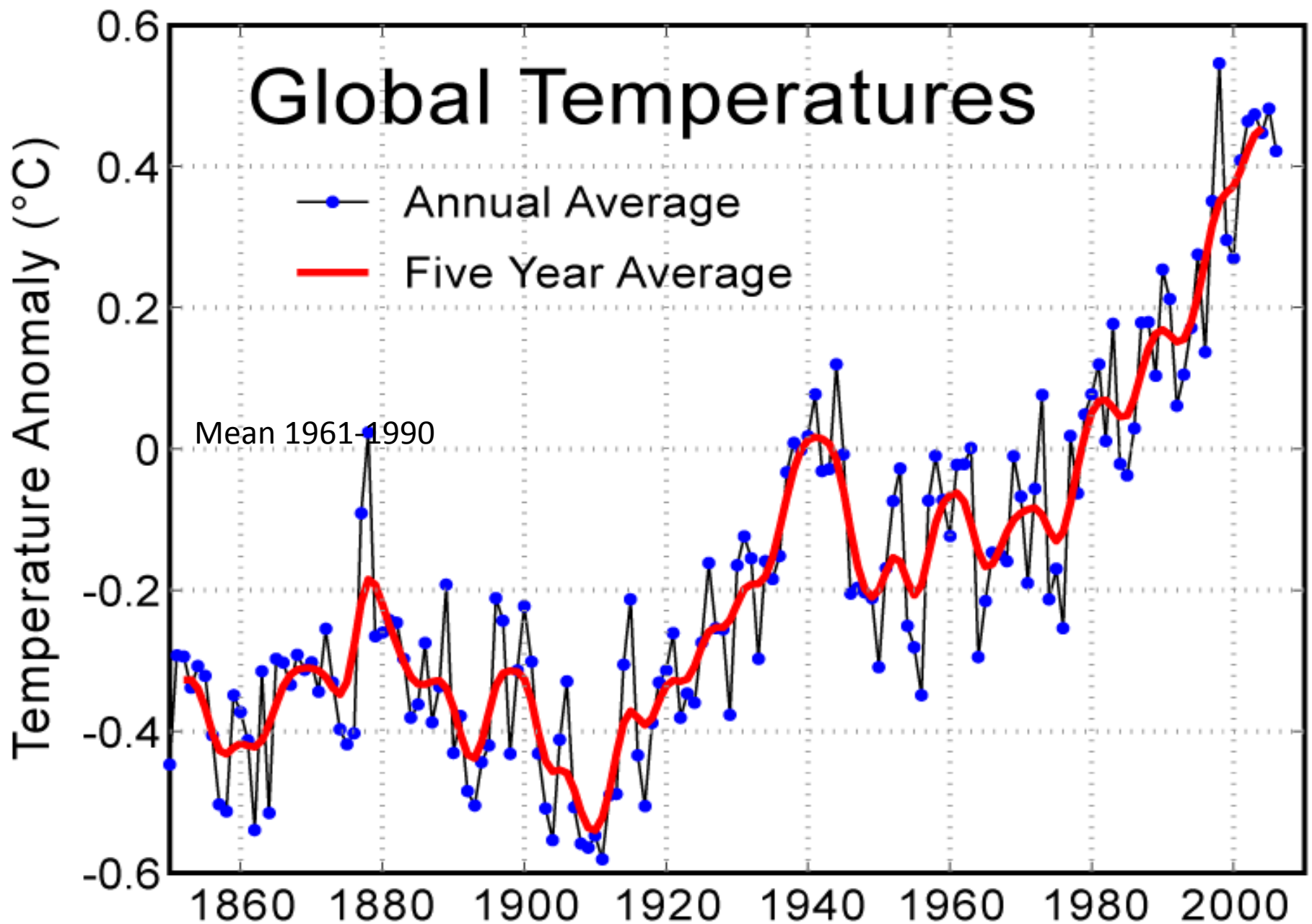
"PUTTING THEORY TO PRACTICE; POLICY TO ACTIONS"

By : Madam Khairiah Talha

# Our world is getting warmer







# Millions are affected.....

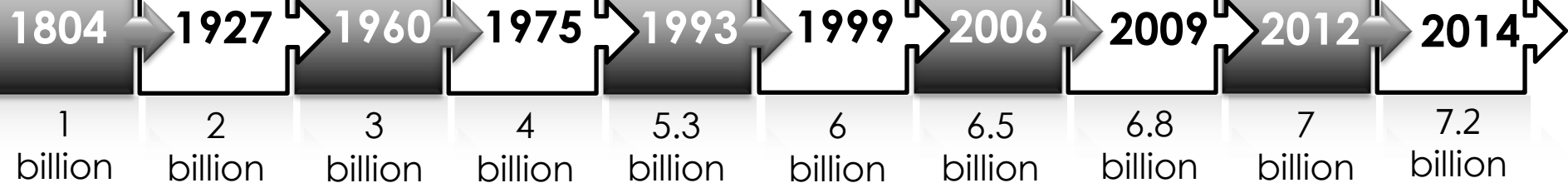
## Did you know?

262 million people were affected by climate disasters in 2004, more than 98 per cent of them in developing countries



# The World's **Population** is in transition

**7.2 billion  
people today  
and continues  
to grow by 83  
million people  
per year.**





- In 2008, the global urban population exceeded the rural population for the first time
- by 2050, 70% of the world's population will live in urban areas ([UN DESA, 2012](#)).
- an increase of around 1.5 million square kilometers of new land area required by 2030, equal to the land area of Mongolia,
- By 2025, 80% of Malaysia's population will be urban



# Climate Change and Extreme Events

- Changing climate will affect the basic requirements for maintaining health : clean air and water, sufficient food and adequate shelter.
- Globally each year, about 3.5 million people die from malnutrition, 1.8 million from diarrhoea due to poor sanitation, 800,000 from causes attributable to urban air pollution, and approximately 60,000 from natural disasters.
- A warmer climate gives rise to extreme weather which threatens to increase deaths from malnutrition, diarrhoea and air pollution.

Source : WHO, 2008.

"PUTTING THEORY TO PRACTICE; POLICY TO ACTIONS"



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

UNU-HIGH

By : Madam Khairiah Talha  
International Institute for Global Health

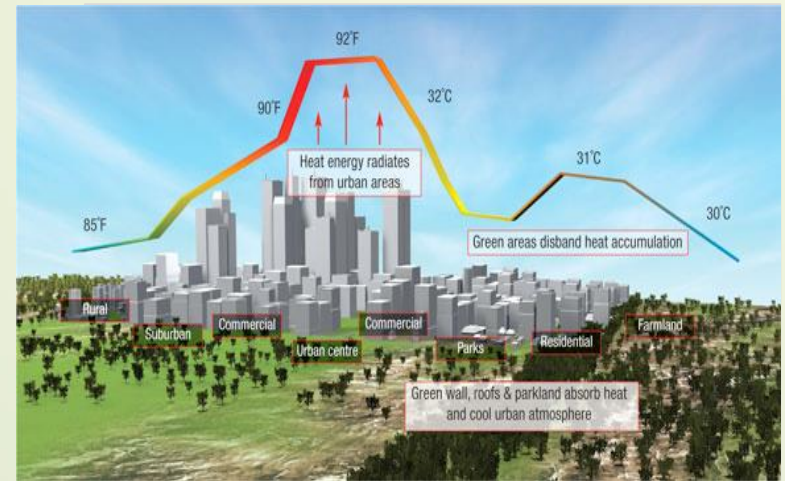
# Climate Change impact on cities & our built environment



**Flash floods**



**Limited water supply**



**Urban heat island effect**



**Thermal pressure**



**Impact on urban bio-diversity**



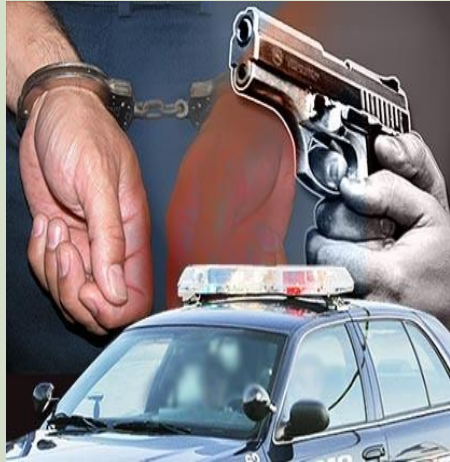
**Public health impact from recurring diseases**

"PUTTING THEORY TO PRACTICE; POLICY TO ACTIONS"

By : Madam Khairiah Talha



# Our built environment also faces great social challenges:



**High crime rate**



**Urban poverty and marginalization**



**High death rates from road accidents**



**Increase in domestic violence**



**High divorce rates (dysfunctional families)**



**Increase in air pollution levels**



**An uncaring society**



**Corruption and abuse of power**

By : Madam Khairiah Talha

"PUTTING THEORY TO PRACTICE; POLICY TO ACTIONS"



# Many initiatives to address urban problems globally



**Green Cities**



**Livable Cities**



**Low Carbon Cities**



**Resilient Cities**



**Future City**



**Inclusive Cities**



**Eco Cities**



**Happy Cities**



**Smart Cities**



**Ubiquitous City**



**Intelligent City**



**Healthy City**

“PUTTING THEORY TO PRACTICE; POLICY TO ACTIONS”

By : Madam Khairiah Talha



# The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

For the world to cope with the transition and all related issues

**"The Sustainable Development Goals are people-centred and planet-sensitive. They are universal – applying to all countries while recognizing different realities and capabilities."**

*UN Secretary-General  
Ban Ki-moon*



#GLOBALGOALS



**UNITED NATIONS  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
SUMMIT 2015**  
25-27 SEPTEMBER



The (SDGs) are a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators that UN member states will be expected to use to frame their agendas and political policies over the next 15 years.

"PUTTING THEORY TO PRACTICE; POLICY TO ACTIONS"

By : Madam Khairiah Talha

# The 17 Goals

- 1) End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- 2) End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
- 3) Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages
- 4) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- 5) Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- 6) Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all





7) Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

8) Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all

9) Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation

10) Reduce inequality within and among countries

11) Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

12) Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



13) Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (taking note of agreements made by the [UNFCCC](#) forum)

14) Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development


15) Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss

16) Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

17) Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development



# GOAL 11



MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE,  
SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

More at [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal)

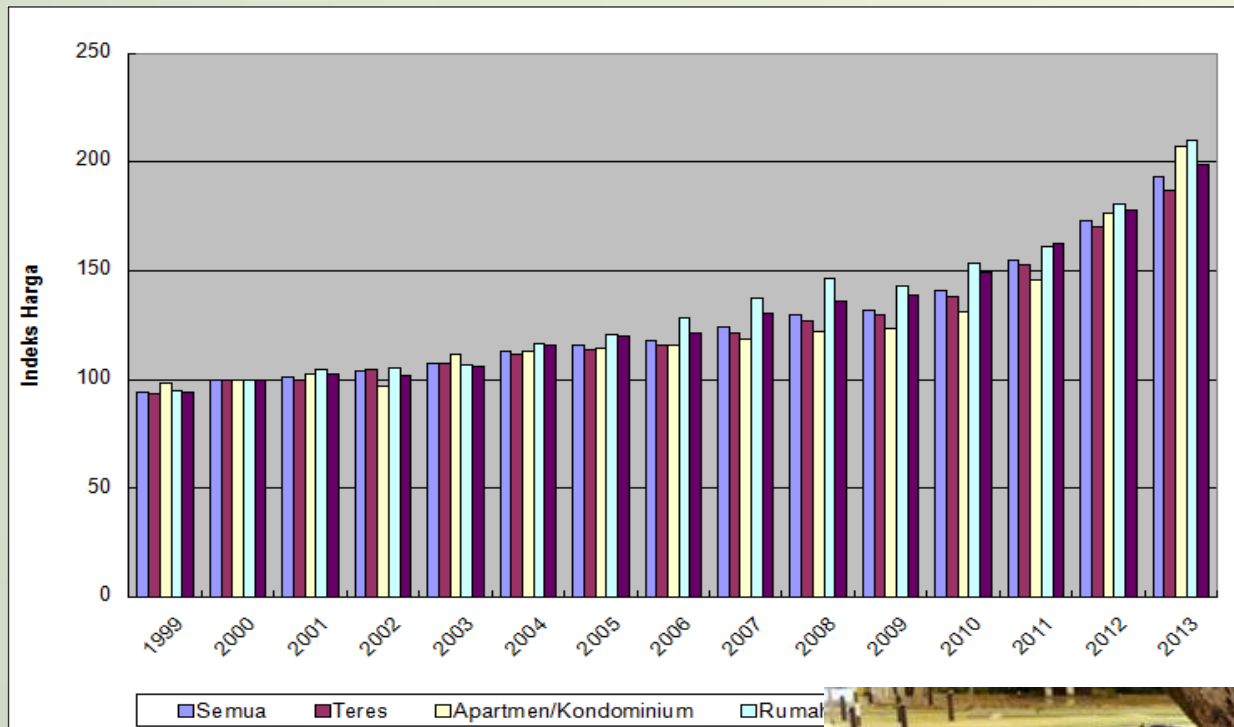


## 11.1 Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services





# In Malaysia:



"PUTTING THEORY TO PRACTICE;"

11.2 Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons





## 11.3 Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries



"PUTTING THEORY TO PRACTICE; POLICY TO ACTIONS"

By : Madam Khairiah Talha

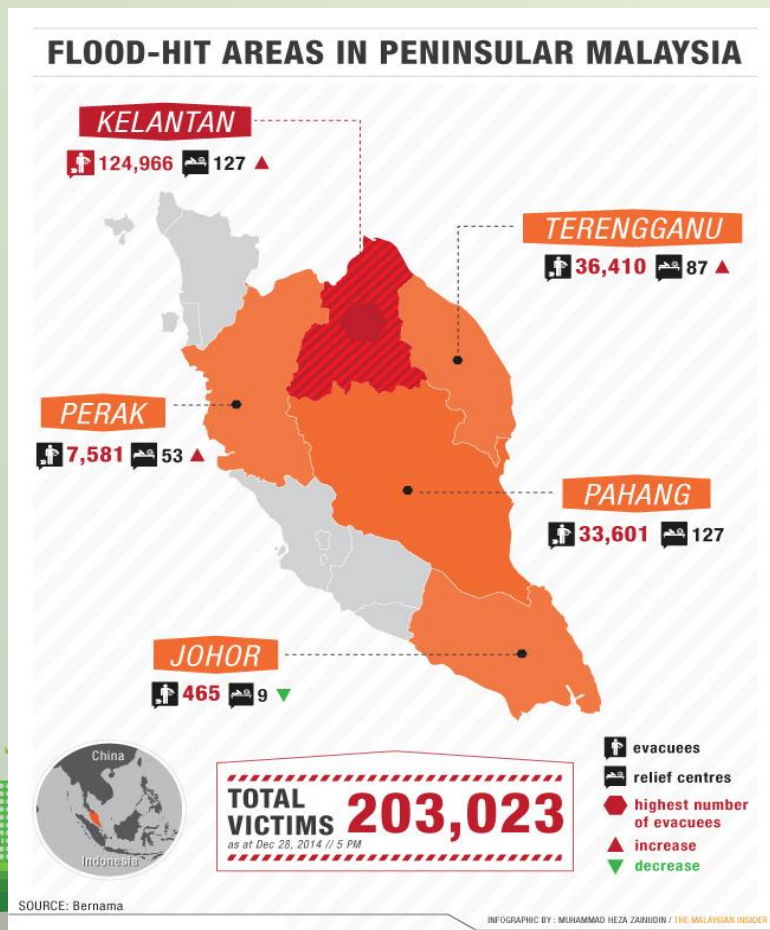


## 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage





11.5 Significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations



“FROM WORDS TO ACTIONS; POLICY TO ACTIONS”

By: Madam Khairiah Talha

## 11.6 Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management



"PUTTING THEORY TO PRACTICE; POLICY TO ACTIONS"

By : Madam Khairiah Talha



11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities



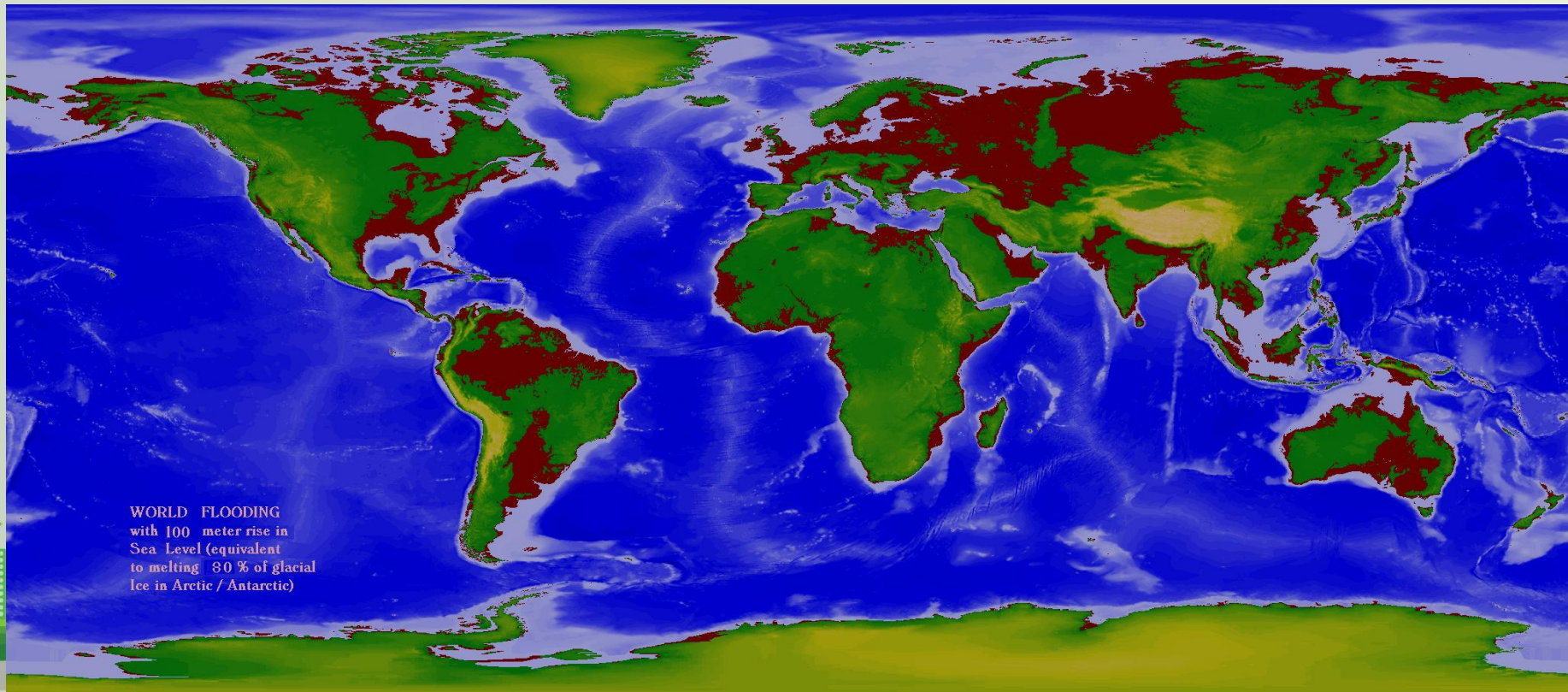


# 11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning





11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels



## 11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials





# **From 15,000 feet (Policy) to 3 feet level (action)**

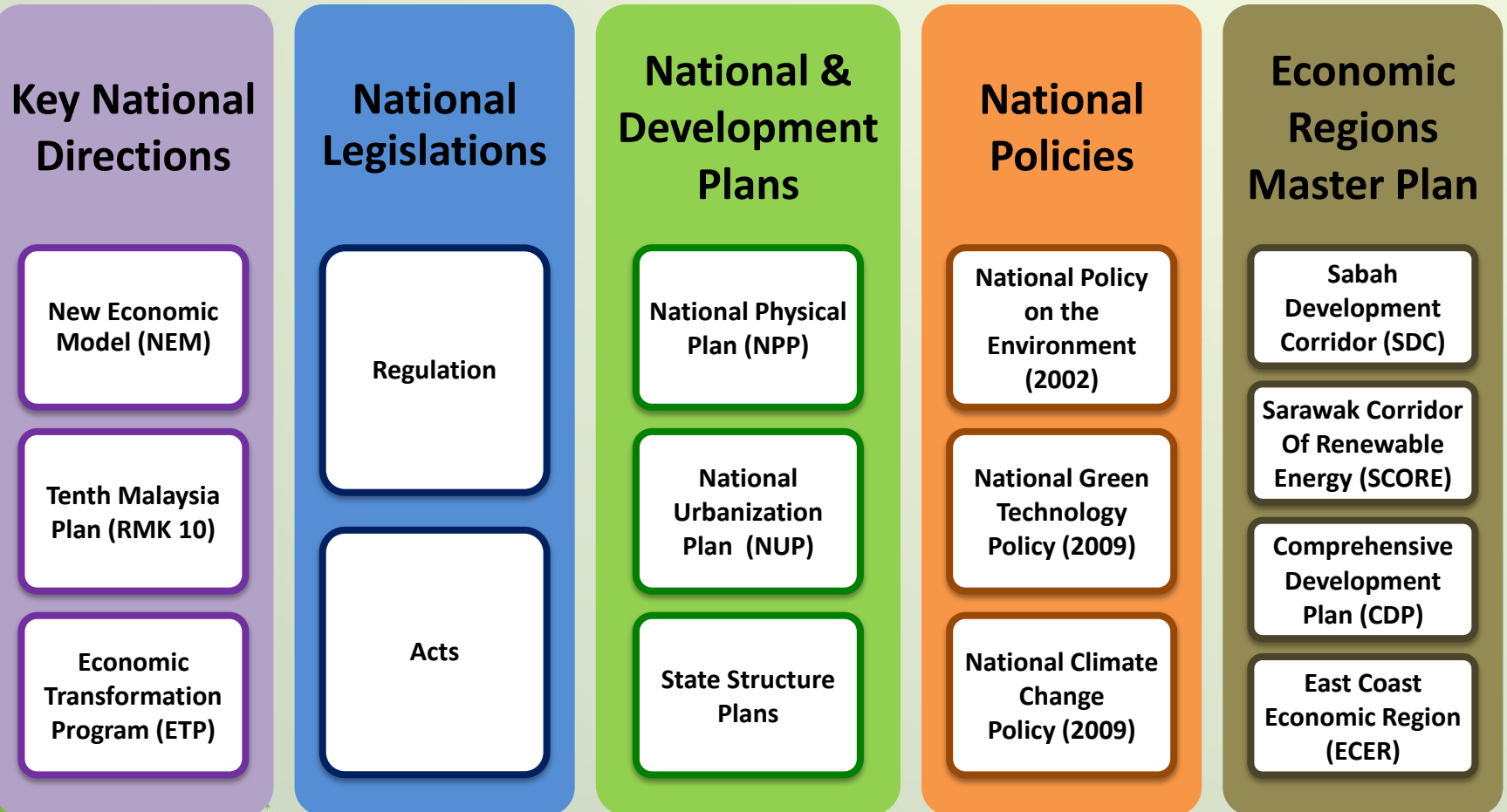


**"PUTTING THEORY TO PRACTICE; POLICY TO ACTIONS"**

By : Madam Khairiah Talha

# MALAYSIA POLICIES AND PLAN

Plans & policies related to sustainable and green development in Malaysia:



"PUTTING THEORY TO PRACTICE; POLICY TO ACTIONS"

By: Madam Khairiah Talha

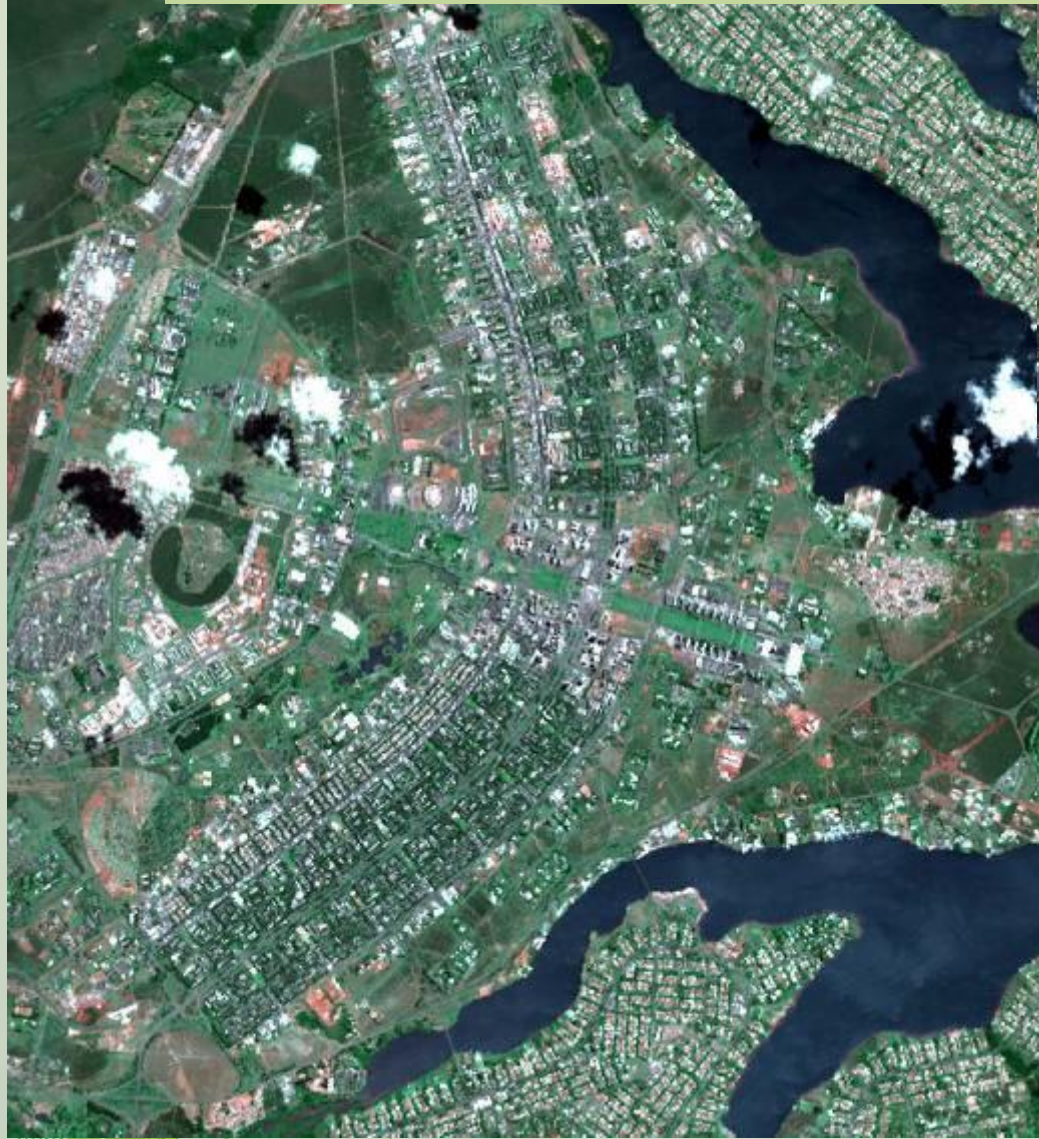
# Malaysia's National Policies

- National Housing Policy
- National Policy on Biodiversity
- National Landscape Policy
- National Green Technology Policy
- National Urbanization Policy
- National Policy on Tourism
- National Agricultural Policy
- National Education Policy
- National Transportation Policy
- National Car Policy
- National Policy on Natural resources
- National Social Policy
- National Food Safety Policy
- Etc. etc.





The view looks great from 15,000 feet up



**Brasilia at 15,000 feet**

**Brasilia at 3,000 feet**

"PUTTING THEORY TO PRACTICE; POLICY TO ACTIONS"

By : Madam Khairiah Talha

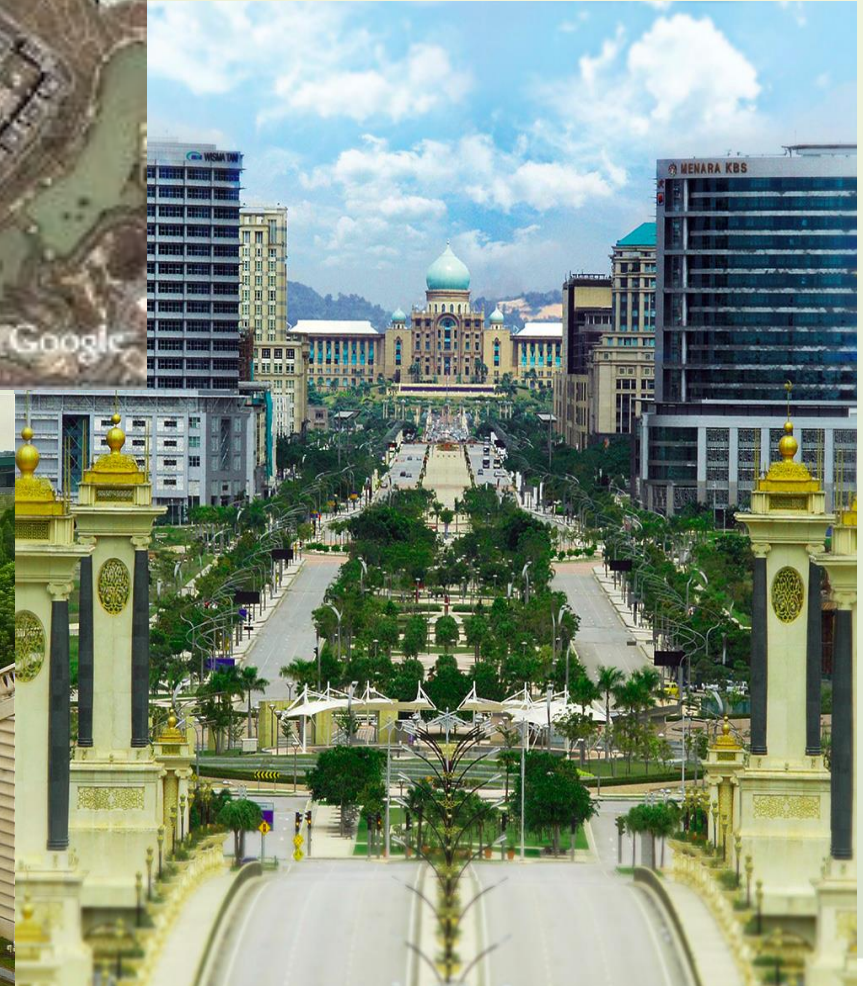


# But at 3 feet level....reality strikes





# Putrajaya



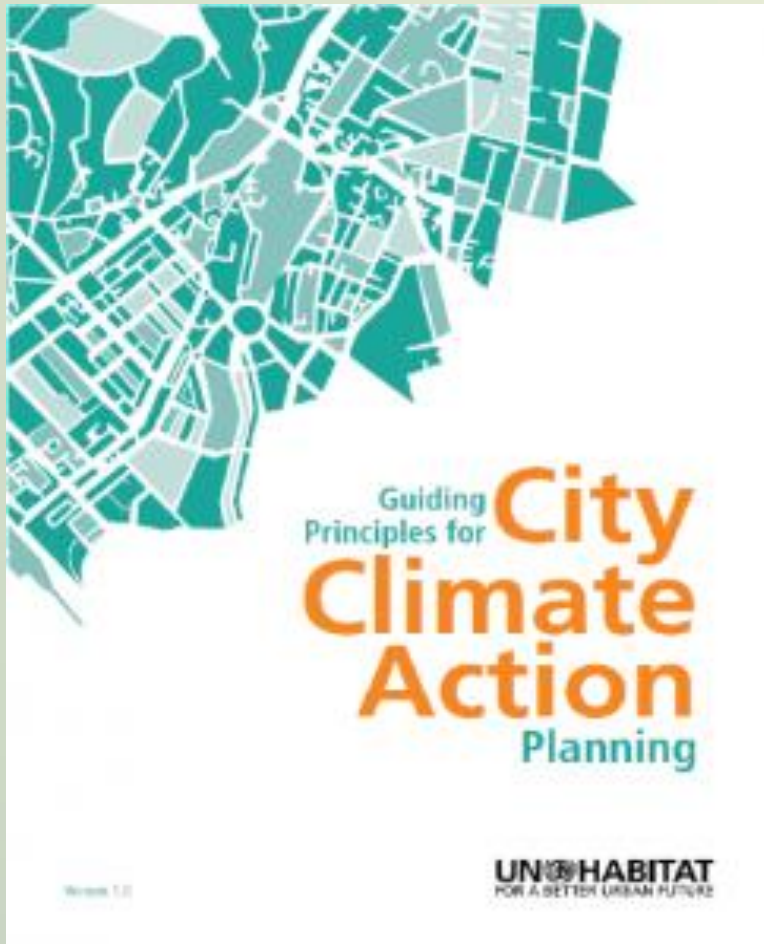


# COP 21@Paris, December 2015

Cop21 in Paris highlighted the role of cities as the place where the struggle to mitigate climate change will be either won or lost.

Cities play a critical role in emissions, thus they must also become key actors in global efforts to bring down greenhouse gas emissions.

The publication establishes guiding principles for action planning in cities, based on international evidence and best-practices.



"PUTTING THEORY TO PRACTICE; POLICY TO ACTIONS"

By : Madam Khairiah Talha



**How do you transform cities to cope with the transition facing humanity?**

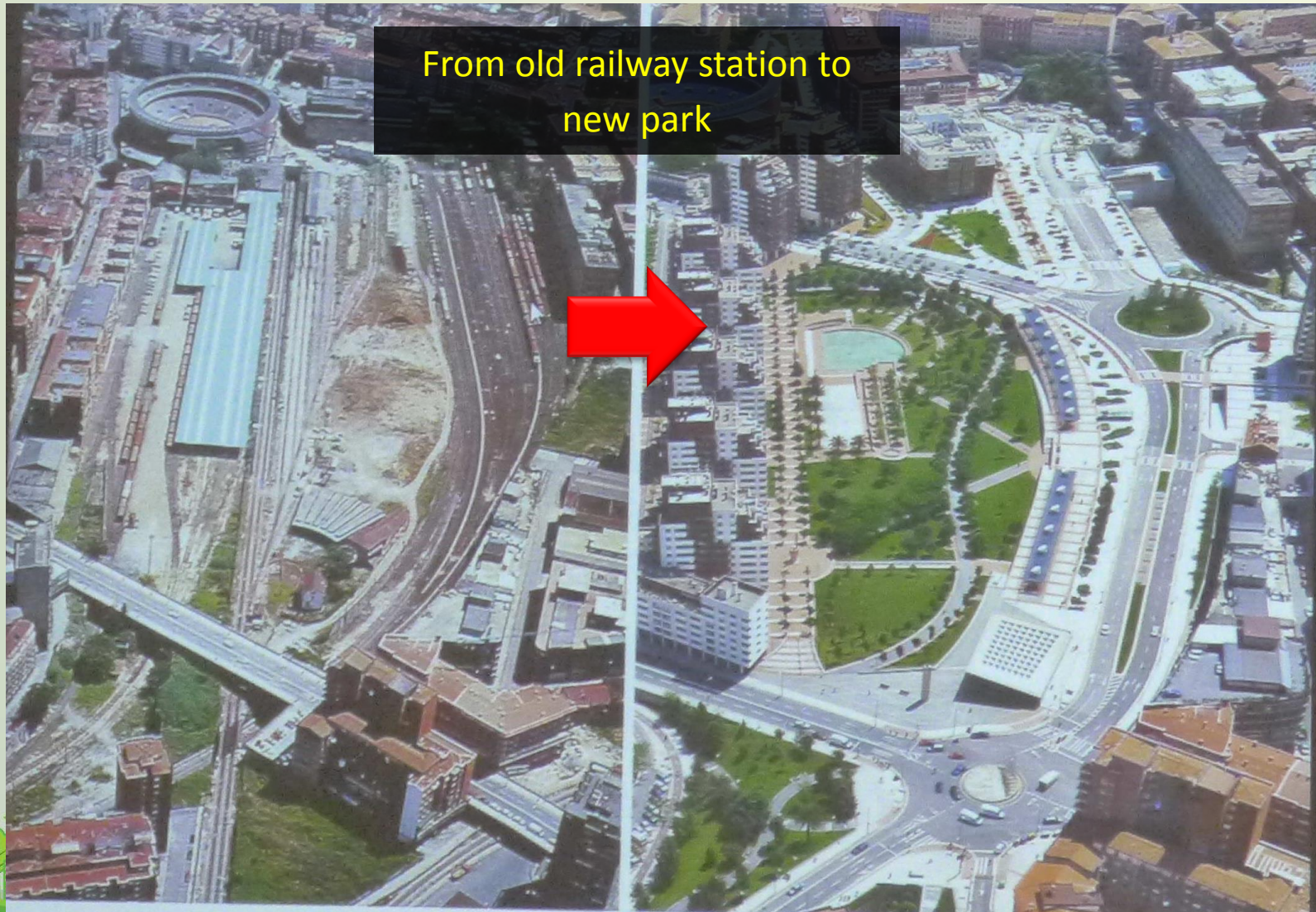


**New York ,  
USA**





## Bilbao, Spain – Greening the City; lower Co2



From old railway station to  
new park

"PUTTING THEORY TO PRACTICE; POLICY TO ACTIONS"

By: Madam Khairiah Talha



**before**



**Seoul – Opening  
the Cheong  
GyeCheong river**

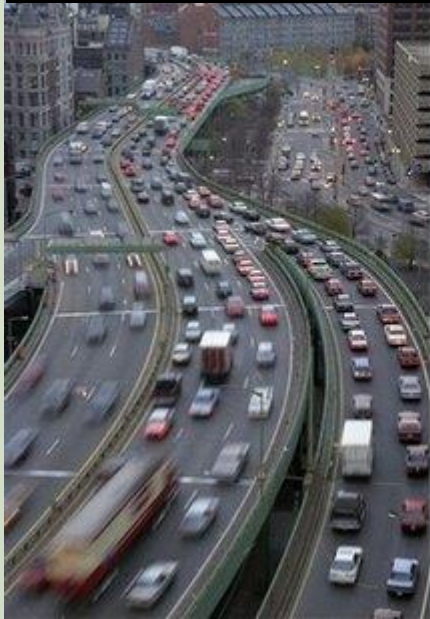


**after**





**Boston**



**Portland**



**Herald Square**



**Hamburg, Germany**





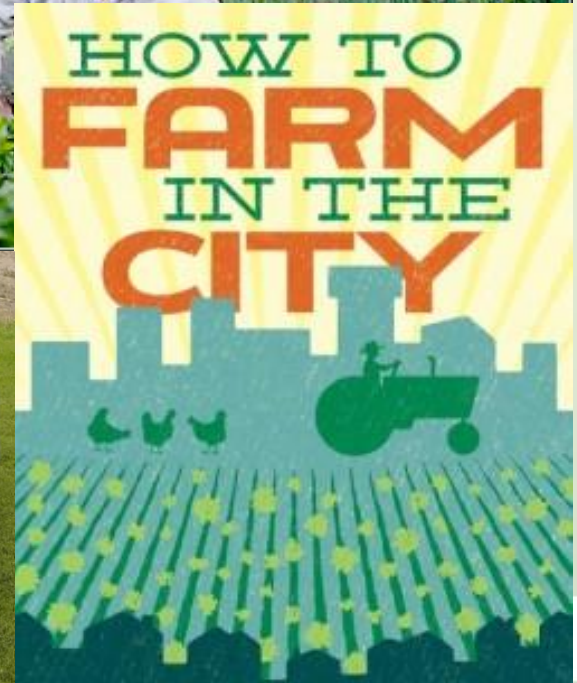
# Growing food in the city – lowering carbon footprint



iCreatables:

SNAP  
TOGETHER  
URBAN

CHICKEN COOP





# Getting cars/ vehicles off the city's roads & humanize the city



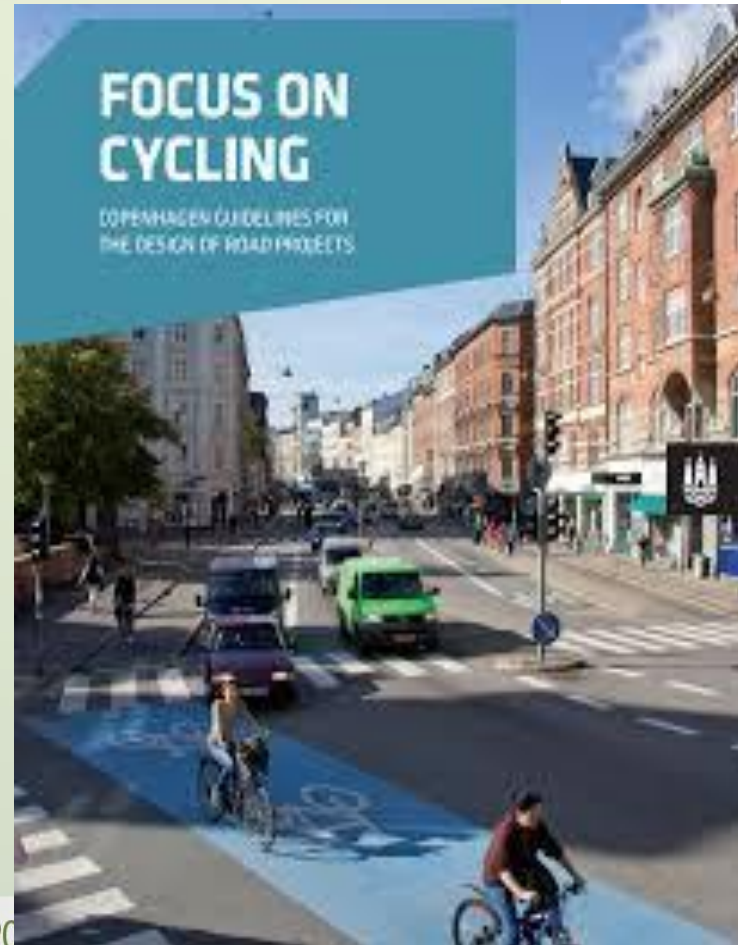
**Broadway, New York**

“PUTTING THEORY TO PRACTICE; POLICY TO ACTIONS”

By : Madam Khairiah Talha



# Learning from others who have succeeded



# “Professionals in Transition”



*"Actions: What You Can Do with the City* gathers actions that reinvent our daily lives and reoccupy urban space with new uses.

The goal is finding within these actions the tools for introducing new priorities into society."





# Addressing urban settlements' transition:

- Need multidisciplinary, overlapping relationships;
- Solutions lie in urban planning and design, education, social entrepreneurship, climate change, sanitation and water, migration, public health, transportation, energy production, society cultures and values, housing, etc.
- Community, NGOs, Academicians and Professional bodies must interact, communicate, collaborate



# Multi-disciplinary approach in the transformation of Hammarby-Sjodstad, Stockholm, Sweden



"PUTTING THEORY TO PRACTICE; POLICY TO ACTIONS"

By : Madam Khairiah Talha





**From This...**



**To This.....**



# Way Forward

- Research be made available to the industry;
- Greater collaboration with practitioners;
- Strengthen partnerships towards a common goal;
- Embed the sustainability awareness in all professional courses through the curriculum.



"PUTTING THEORY TO PRACTICE; POLICY TO ACTIONS"

By : Madam Khairiah Talha





# Teaching for Sustainability

The University of Melbourne aspires to develop graduates who are active global citizens and environmental advocates.

To deliver on this commitment, it is working towards embedding Education for Sustainability (EfS) in all curricula, to develop graduates who will lead change for a sustainable future.



# *Thank You for your attention*



"PUTTING THEORY TO PRACTICE; POLICY TO ACTIONS"

khairiahtalha@gmail.com

By : Madam Khairiah Talha