



The Planning and Governance of Asia's Mega-Urban Regions

Aprodicio A. Laquian
University of British Columbia

Asian Mega-Cities are being transformed into Mega-Urban Regions.



The Mega-Urban Regions of Asia

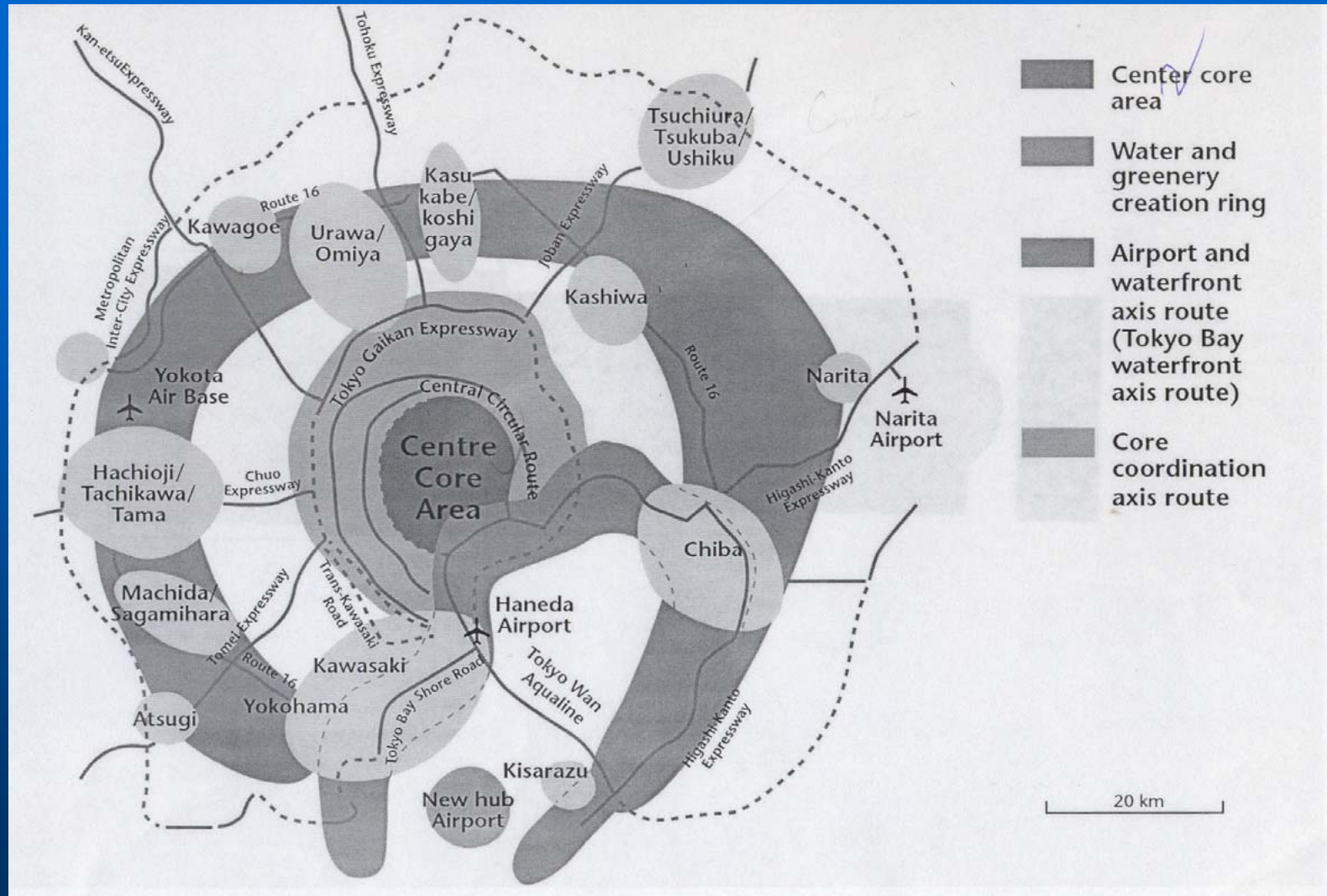


Three types of mega-urban regions:

- (a) Urban corridors
- (b) Mega-city dominated regions
- (c) Sub-national mega-urban regions



The Tokyo Metropolis – expanding from mega-city to head of the “bullet train” corridor




A photograph of a model city, likely a university or museum exhibit. The model features a variety of buildings, including a tall, modern skyscraper with a green top, several smaller commercial buildings, and a large residential area with many small houses. The model is set on a dark base. In the background, there are other model buildings and a display board. A semi-transparent black box with white text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Types of mega-urban region planning:

- (a) Classical city planning**
- (b) Colonial city planning**
- (c) Socialist city planning**
- (d) Comprehensive strategic planning**

The Special Economic Zones of China implementing an urban-led strategy

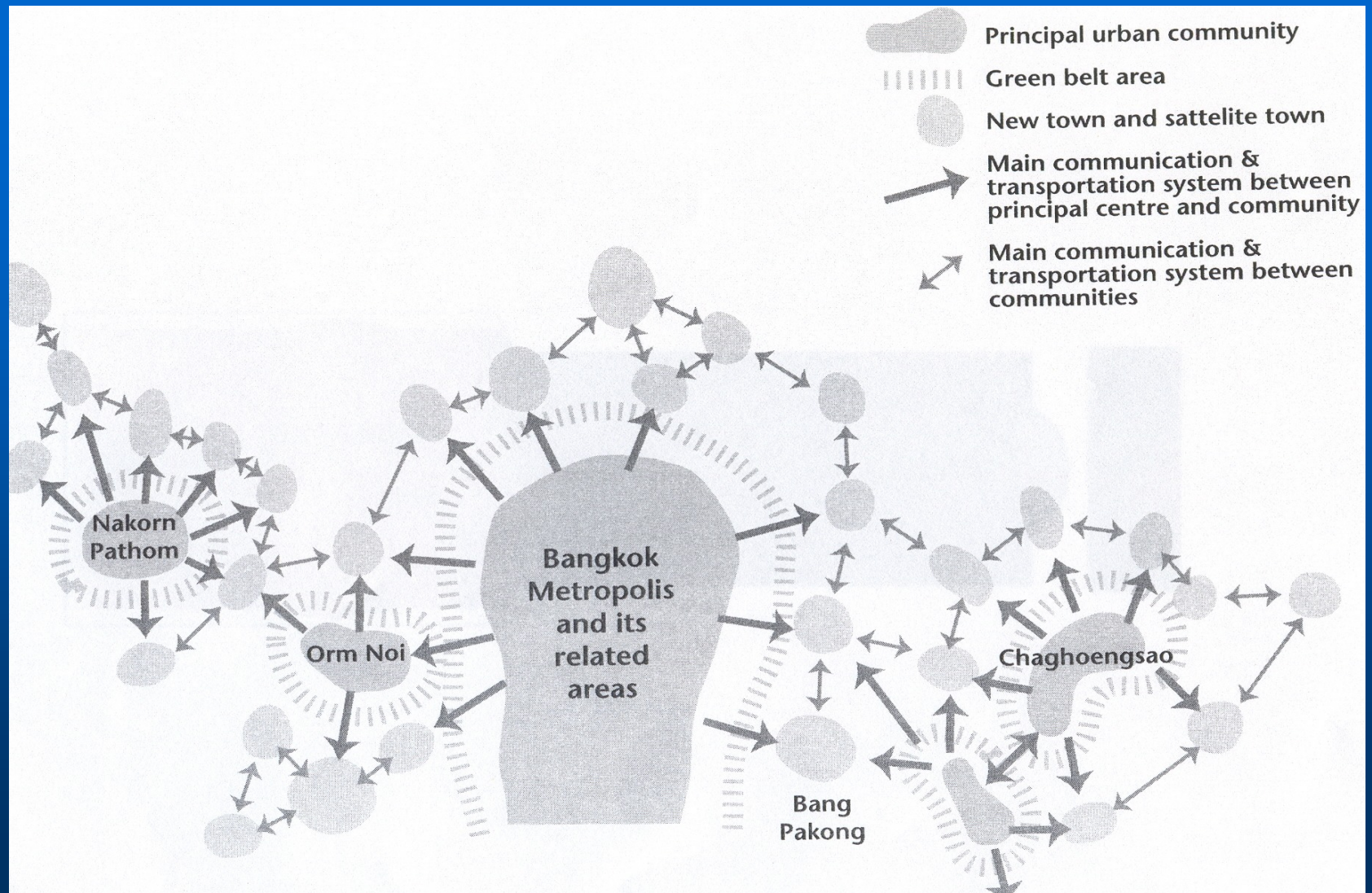




Issues in city-region planning:

- (a) Inner city redevelopment**
- (b) Controlling urban sprawl**
- (c) Dealing with pollution**

Uncontrolled urban sprawl in the Bangkok-centered region



A person wearing an orange shirt and a white cap is riding a bicycle with a large basket of goods, likely a delivery person, in an urban setting. The bicycle is loaded with various items, including boxes and bags. The background shows a white building with a black metal fence and a white van parked on the street.

Types of Mega-Urban Region governance:

- (a) Autonomous local governance
- (b) Mixed regional governance
- (c) Unified regional governance

Wanted: a governance structure for China's Pearl River Delta region



Authority to create governance structures for mega-urban regions rests with central governments and provincial/state governments





Inclusive development:

- (a) Include rural and urban areas**
- (b) Include all levels of government**
- (c) Include all segments of society especially the urban poor**
- (d) Include the private sector**
- (e) Integrate urban infrastructure and services**
- (f) Include civil society**

A photograph of a city street scene, possibly in a developing area, with buildings and trees visible. A semi-transparent dark rectangular box is overlaid on the upper half of the image, containing white text. The text reads: "Environmental pollution is a serious problem in mega-urban region development".

Environmental pollution is a serious problem in mega-urban region development

**Citizen participation is possible
even in mega-urban regions**



**The involvement of People in public
decision making is the key to social
sustainability**

