ADDRESSING RESILIENCY AND CITIZEN NEEDS TO SUSTAIN GROWTH

INFORMAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

EVOLUTIONARY CITIES
he capital of the Philippines is a densely populated bayside city on the island of Luzon and has a population of 1.78 million. One of the densest cities in the world, Manila features in the bottom quartile of the 2018 Sustainable Cities Index due to its low scores across all three pillars.

There are a number of key challenges facing Manila including air and water pollution, traffic, and lack of resilience in the face of changing weather patterns. Every year, during the wet season, Manila experiences devastating and deep floods, interrupting the city’s operations and creating inconvenience for its citizens.

Cities need to focus on addressing long-term issues such as resilience, and address reactive challenges. Manila ranked in the last 10 of the Index scoring low on the sub-index of People, Planet and Profit due to the lack of forward sustainable planning as the city growth accelerates.

Despite current challenges, the Philippines has enjoyed high economic growth in recent years, with the World Bank projecting the country’s GDP to grow by 6.7% in 2018 and 2019, the highest in Southeast Asia. Under President Rodrigo Duterte’s “Build Build Build” program, USD$180 billion will be spent on infrastructure works over the next decade. It is envisioned that the program will transform the Philippines’ economy, create job opportunities and sustain growth.

Focusing on building resilience and investment in infrastructure to uplift the country’s economy are key to Manila enjoying a sustainable future. With so much advancement in construction and innovation technology in recent years, Manila is poised to develop solutions that are resilient to future risks while remaining cost effective. With much of the progress being supported and driven by the private sector, city policy makers will play a key role by helping create long-term sustainable policies and embrace international best practice and lessons learnt. Local businesses will need to adapt to manage the mobility and resilience challenges in the coming years while development continues.

Reflects social mobility and quality of opportunity and life

Describes management of energy use, pollution and emissions

Assesses business environment and economic performance

The three pillars

The Sustainable Cities Index is a broad measure of sustainability, encompassing measures of the social, environmental and economic health of cities. It ranks 100 global cities on three pillars of sustainability: People, Planet and Profit. The three pillars are closely aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and track progress against UN SDG commitments.

Manila’s three pillar rankings:

- People #93
- Planet #91
- Profit #98

Manila is a typical Evolutionary City and the Index feature 19 cities that fit this profile with these cities in the bottom third of the Index. This is a very diverse group that includes rapidly growing cities in emerging markets as well as cities in developed economies that are changing rapidly in response to new circumstances.

An Evolutionary City is a city that undergoes rapid growth, and a key challenge for them is the level of disruption risen at the turning point in their trajectory. This disruption might affect jobs, crime levels and even mobility choices. Support from enterprises and the local community is important in shaping a positive citizen experience as the city gains momentum in improving the quality of life.

**Asia results**

European cities dominated the top quartile of the 2018 Sustainable Cities Index with the exception of Singapore representing Asia by ranking #4 globally, closely followed by Hong Kong at #9. Other Asia cities are represented in the bottom quartile of the rankings with Profit performance, particularly related to ease of doing business and output contributing to their weak relative performance.

**City Cluster Two | Evolutionary Cities**

Our report also features new work on city archetypes and clusters based on an analysis of the citizen experiences of city living combined with the Index data. The four city clusters; Balanced Innovators, Post Industrial Opportunists, Evolutionary Cities and Fast-growing Megacities seek to profile the citizen experience in correlation to the Index ranking.

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