

**Managing Megacities: A Case Study of Metropolitan Regional  
Governance for Dhaka.**

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## **Declaration**

I declare that this is my own account of my research.

Sirajul Haq Talukder

## Abstract

Megacities of over 10 million population are a phenomenon not seen before in human history. Among 19 Megacities, 14 are in developing countries and 11 are in Asia. Dhaka represents one of the most extreme examples of rapid Megacity growth having a mere 129,000 at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, 417,000 by 1950 and more than 12 million in 2001.

How can a city be governed that has increased 30 times in size over a person's lifetime? This thesis makes a case for integrated Metropolitan Regional Governance (MRG) of the Extended Metropolitan Region of Dhaka.

The growing problems of Asian Megacities in general and Dhaka in particular are outlined, showing how governance has developed in a sectoral and national way rather than being place oriented. This has fractured and become totally inadequate as a means of solving the deep environmental, social and economic problems of the Megacity.

The governance issues of Megacities are traced to the primary problem of the need for integrative functions in strategic and statutory planning as well as development facilitation of the Extended Metropolitan Region (EMR). Ten core principles of Metropolitan Regional Governance are established. Without this, the Megacity's functions of infrastructure, investment, housing, environmental management, employment etc. are not coordinated or prioritised in ways that lead to 'common good' sustainability outcomes.

The ten principles are applied to four Asian Megacities – Metro-Manila, Tokyo, Bangkok and Jakarta – to confirm their relevance and application before applying them to Dhaka.

The problems of Dhaka are outlined then an analysis of Dhaka governance options is attempted based on the ten core principles of MRG. Four possibilities are analysed and a way forward is suggested combining the options.

The proposed structure will build on the present system with greater responsibilities for strategic planning, statutory planning and development facilitation. It will also build up municipalities through a more transparent and engaged local planning process and create partnerships for infrastructure development.

The proposed governance structure would use the dynamism of the Megacity to create sustainable solutions and hope for the future of the city. The key to implementation will be finding the political solution to make such painful change, and training professionals in the broad integrative skills of urban sustainability and community engagement that are required for the region as well as the participation and partnership skills at local level.

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## List of Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Council
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
BAPA	Movement for Bangladesh Environment
BAPPENAS	The national planning agency in the Indonesian Government
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BMA	Bangkok Metropolitan Administration
BMR	Bangkok Metropolitan Region
BOI	Board of Investment (GOB)
BOO	Build, Operate and Own
BOT	Build, Operate and Transfer
BPC	Bangladesh Tourism Corporation
BRTA	Bangladesh Road Transport Authority
BRTC	Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation
BSCIC	Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation
BT&TB	Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board
BUET	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology
BWDB	Bangladesh Water Development Board
CARE	Cooperation of American Relief Everywhere
CBO	Community Based Organizations
CMDA	Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority
CMDA	Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CUS	Centre for Urban Studies
CWASA	Chittagong Water and Sewerage Authority (GOB)
DC	Deputy Commissioner of a District (GOB)
DCC	Dhaka City Corporation
DESA	Dhaka Electric Supply Authority
DIT	Dhaka Improvement Trust
DMAIUDP	Dhaka Metropolitan Area Integrated Urban Development Project
DMDP	Dhaka Metropolitan Development Planning
DMP	Dhaka Metropolitan Police
DMRC	Dhaka Metropolitan Regional Corporation (proposed)
DMRP&CD	Dhaka Metropolitan Regional Planning and Coordination Division in the Planning Commission (proposed)
DND	Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra Triangle
DOE	Department of Environment (GOB)
DPHE	Department of Public Health Engineering (GOB)
DTCB	Dhaka Transport Coordination Board
DU	University of Dhaka
DWASA	Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority
EBR	Extended Bangkok Region
EMR	Extended Metropolitan Region
FAP	Flood Action Plan (GOB)
FPCO	Flood Plan Coordination Organization (GOB)
GOB	Government of Bangladesh
HBFC	House Building Finance Corporation (GOB)

HDS	Housing and Settlement Directorate (GOB)
IUCN	World Conservation Council
JABOTABEK	Joint body of DKI Jakarta and West Java Provinces in Indonesia
JICA	Japan International Development Authority
LGED	Local Government Engineering Department (GOB)
MCGM	Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai
MH&PW	Ministry of Housing and Public Works (GOB)
MLGRD&C	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (GOB)
MMDA	Metro Manila Development Authority
MMRDA	Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority
MRDA	Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (proposed)
MRG	Metropolitan Regional Governance
MRPA	Metropolitan Regional Planning Authority (proposed)
MSIP	Multi Sector Investment Programming
MWR	Ministry of Water Resources (GOB)
NEC	National Economic Council (GOB)
NGO	Non Government Organization
NHA	National Housing Authority (GOB)
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PWD	Public Works Department (GOB)
R&HD	Roads and Highways Department (GOB)
RAJUK	Capital Development Authority (GOB)
SCP	Sustainable Cities Program of UNCHS
TMG	Tokyo Metropolitan Government
UDD	Urban Development Directorate (GOB)
UN	United Nations
UN ESCAP	UN Economic and Social Commission for the Asia Pacific
UNCED	United Nations Centre for Environmental Development
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements/HABITAT
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNU	United Nations University
UPO	Urban People's Organization
WA	Western Australia
ZP	Zilla (District) Parishad (Committee)-GOB