

## *Resilient Bangkok*

The most significant hazard that Bangkok faces is flooding because Bangkok is located on Chao Phraya River Basin which is flat at an average elevation of 1-2 meters above the mean sea level whereas some areas are under sea level due to land subsidence. Bangkok straddles the Chao Phraya River approximately 33 kilometers from the Gulf of Thailand. According to a flood - prone area, Bangkok faced big flooding many times, especially in 1983, 1985, and 2011. Flooding in 2011 made Bangkok city vulnerable not only from a perspective of the functioning of the city such as power failure, water supply shortage, transportation disruption, etc., but also from the perspective of quality of life of Bangkok residents such as diseases and environmental problems, etc. Therefore, flooding event becomes the most significant problem that the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) recognizes for resilience. Moreover, it needs to help Bangkok city become more resilient to the physical, social, and economic challenges that are growing part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

To be a resilient city, Bangkok applied for 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation. Bangkok was selected from 372 applicants around the world to be among the first wave of 33 cities to join the 100RC network and develop a resilience strategy. The initiative is designed to enable 100 cities from around the world to better address the increasing shocks and stresses of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The main activities are hiring Bangkok Chief Resilience Officer (BangkokCRO) and developing the Bangkok Resilience Strategy.

The Bangkok Resilience Strategy was developed. Its vision of Strategy: A safe, livable and sustainable city for all. The action areas are **Increasing quality of life; Reducing risk and increasing adaptation;** and **Driving a strong and competitive economy.** Each Strategic Action Area comprises a number of goals and each goal has a range of initiatives with specific, implementable projects.

**Increasing quality of life:** Bangkok supports over 8 million people in the city, and over 14 million in its metropolitan area, who travel to and from work, access healthcare, and partake in entertainment and recreation. To ensure that our residents can experience increased quality of life, we will work to improve social services and mobility for all residents. This Strategic Action Area has three goals: Health and wellbeing for all city residents, now and into the future; Safe, accessible and convenient transportation network; and Environmentally friendly urbanization. Ensuring our healthcare and facilities meet the evolving needs of an ageing population will be central to achieving our goals. We will work to promote and facilitate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, through infrastructure change and engagement with the community. We will improve mobility and connectivity through actions that will contribute to a safe, accessible and convenient transportation network and promote green space in urban areas to make the city a more pleasant and accessible place to live and work.

**Reducing...**

**Reducing risk and increasing adaptation:** Climate change, urbanization and globalization will bring increasing uncertainty and unplanned interruption to Bangkok. By supporting and strengthening community-led disaster risk reduction actions and increasing institutional adaptive capacity, we will support all of Bangkok's residents to better adapt to natural and human hazards and the increasing risks posed by climate change. This Strategic Action Area has three goals: Improving resilience to floods; Increasing public and community-driven action on awareness, preparedness and adaptation; and Strengthening institutional capacity and regulation. While identifying and planning for foreseeable risks is an important part of disaster risk reduction, we will also build resilience in our communities so that they can withstand a range of shocks and stresses, even those that are unforeseen.

**Driving a strong and competitive economy:** Bangkok's economy is inextricably connected to the global economy, bringing opportunities for economic diversity and growth through trade, tourism, and investment. Increasing interconnections and interdependencies also introduce significant volatility and vulnerability into our economy. While the city cannot shield itself entirely from this volatility, there is much that can be done to ensure our economy is strong, efficient, accessible, and competitive. We will drive a strong and competitive economy through economic diversification, both in terms of industries and in employment opportunities for our residents. This strategic action area has two goals: Facilitating city and community-based economy; and Expanding tourism, service industry and hospitality. To achieve these goals we will work to cultivate our world-renowned tourism and service industries by developing a roadmap for our tourism sector and by supporting tourism providers with business development training. We will explore opportunities for technological advancement, which can facilitate higher skilled and higher paying jobs and support a diverse range of community-based livelihoods.

There are 60 projects under the strategy. In short term, BMA selects 10 projects to be implemented in one year (March 2017- February 2018). The 10 projects include:

1. Event Based Surveillance for Pandemics
2. Improving Work Places and Living Conditions for Migrant Workers in Bangkok
3. Driver Behavior Change Campaign to Reduce Road Accidents
4. Sustainable Waste Management
5. Developing New Recreational Parks
6. Development of Green Space and Riverside Promenade along the Banks  
for the Chao Phraya River
7. Youth Education Program for Disaster Safety
8. Search and Rescue Training Program
9. Resilience Training for BMA Social Planners and Analysts
10. Develop Economy, Trade, Finance and Investment Analysts for BMA

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