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Myanmar / Yangon

Area: 1043.57 km² /
Population: 5.14 million /
Population density: 16,000 / km²

●Yangon

Current status of the city

Yangon Region, the largest economic center of Myanmar, has a population of about 7.4 million. Applying an annual growth rate of 2.6%, the population will become a mega city in 2030. It is the most populous city in Myanmar and the center of commerce. The area of the city is 9178.96 sq. km but only 1043.57 sq. km of the Yangon area is administered by the YCDC.
Currently, the Yangon Region consists of 44 townships, 33 of which are in the YCDC service area. The current rapid urbanization is putting more pressure on the existing old infrastructure in Yangon City and concerns about the deterioration of its urban environment are growing. To manage such a large city and accommodate the huge population properly and actively, gradual urban development with appropriate infrastructure is required through government initiatives with good coordination between positive private activities and citizens' understanding and cooperation. Yangon faces problems such as traffic congestion, natural disasters, and public services arising from its rapid urbanization.

Smart city action plan

Vision: To create a Smart City while organizing the transparent and easy flow of information to the public.

Focus area: Streetscape Improvement, Zoning Regulations, Disaster Management

Project 1: Conservation of the Yangon streetscape, improvement in the CBD
Flood protection for the CBD has been prioritized. Flood resilience and heritage preservation in urban development will be implemented from mid 2019 through 2021. To produce a digital map of Yangon and create the Yangon zoning land use plan map, we are coordinating with Yangon Heritage Trust for the conservation of Yangon Heritage and digital mapping of the Southwestern part of the Yangon Region is planned. On the other side, streetscape improvement in the CBD is one of the infrastructure development projects with JICA and NGOs. As a result, we can provide not only streetscape improvements but also public services for safety, comfort, and linkage with Yangon's heritage and people's activities.

Project 2: Building a geodatabase system
Check and link with existing land and building information databases and feature data (eg. Footprint, land parcels) for the 1:5,000 digital topographic map of Yangon. For this purpose, townships in the YCDC area were selected as pilot projects. The outcomes from this project are: 1) GIS databases including matched results of land and building information; 2) A web-based Geospatial Information System for Public Services in the Yangon Region.

Status of progress

- The alleyways became a target of social experimentation when the Alley Garden Project was implemented by Doh Eain (NGO) together with the YCDC. Among 10 pilot areas downtown, 8 were chosen for the alley garden project, involving multiple stakeholders including residents, the ward and township officers, parliamentary members, and representatives from the departments of the YCDC.
- Formulating a GIS system (1:5,000 for YCDC area (1,500km²)/ 1:10,000 in the south suburbs of the Yangon area (1,100km²)) to sustain the construction of urban development through the establishment of data at the Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) in the Yangon Area.
- Due to the large migration and extensive development in a limited area, zoning regulations and a verification system are needed for the whole Yangon Area. To achieve sustainability, proper zoning regulation is being implemented as a pilot program in the Yankin and Hlaing townships. The other townships' zoning regulations are an ongoing process.
- Analyzing the actual situation (in particular for Yangon) regarding the information base for disasters and disaster risk management as well as awareness, preparedness and capacity building on the urban level and below (down to the household level), about 450 households from 4 selected townships were surveyed as a pilot project by the project of Multiple Risks Management during extreme events in Yangon.

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