



Population Action  
INTERNATIONAL

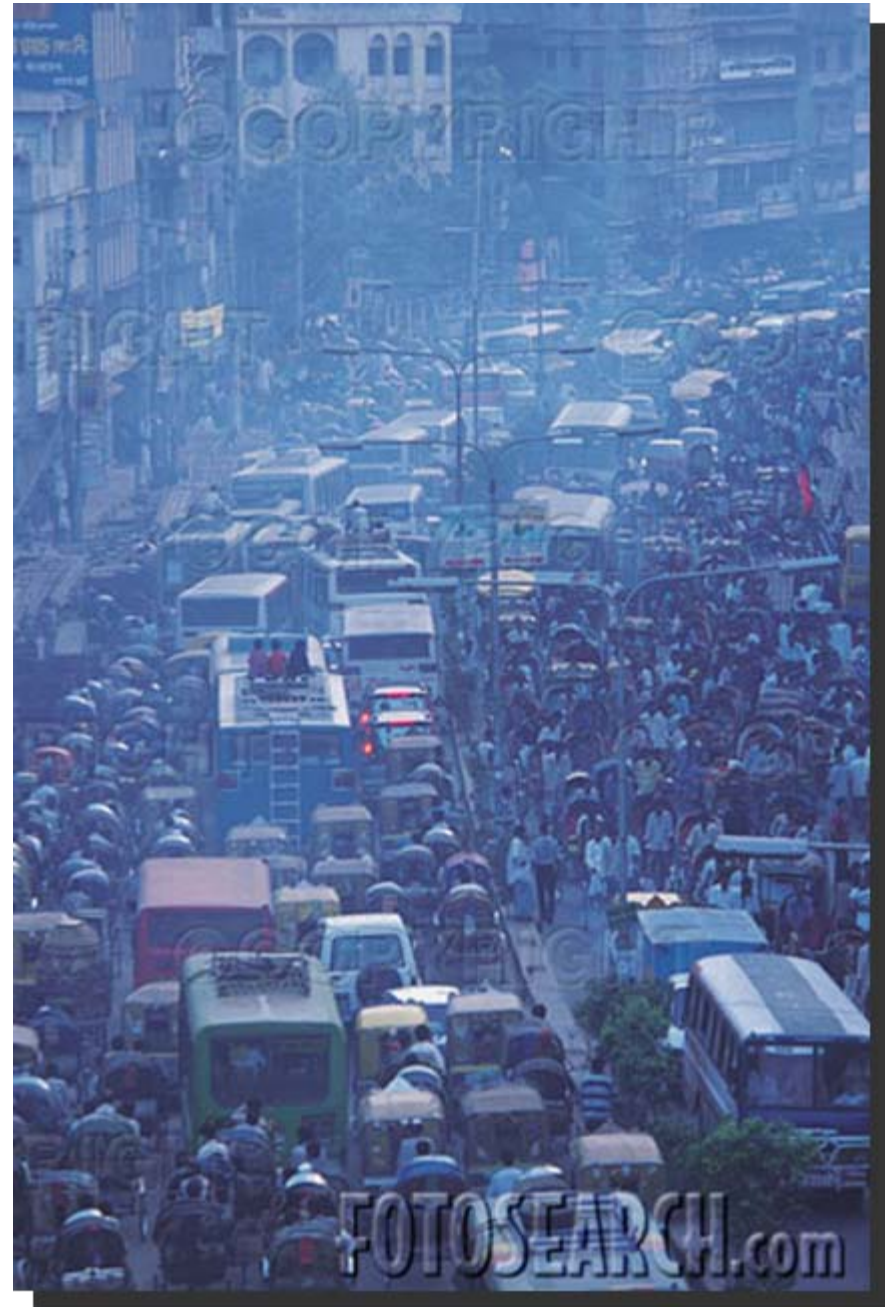
# Population, Urbanization, and the Environment

Leiwen Jiang, PhD; Malea Hoepf Young, MPH;  
Karen Hardee, PhD

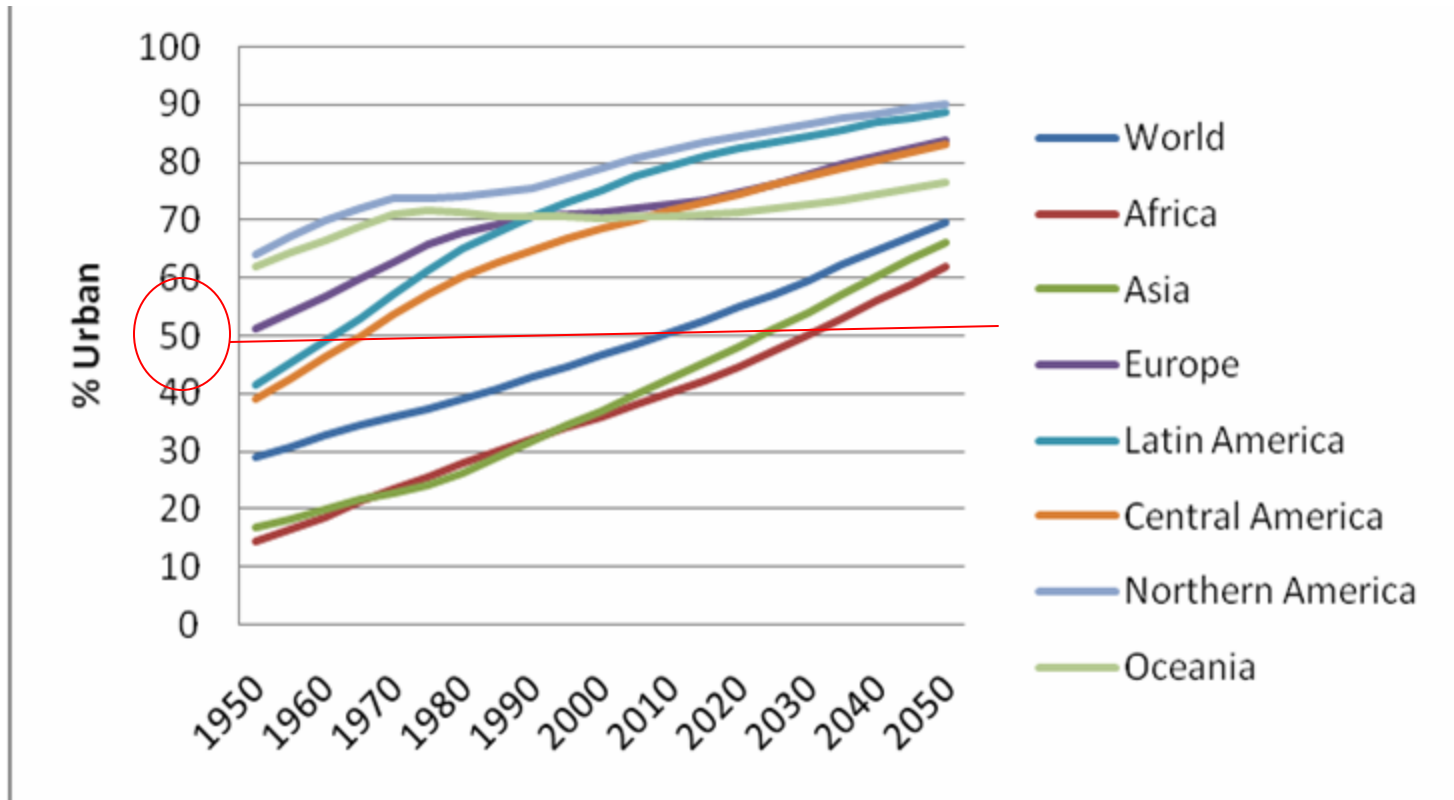
*WorldWatch* Population Issue Launch  
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
Washington, DC, September 30, 2008

# The World is Trending Urban

- In 2008, the world became mostly urban
- 3.5 billion people concentrated on < 3% of planet's land surface
- Urbanization effects the environment and fertility and population growth rates

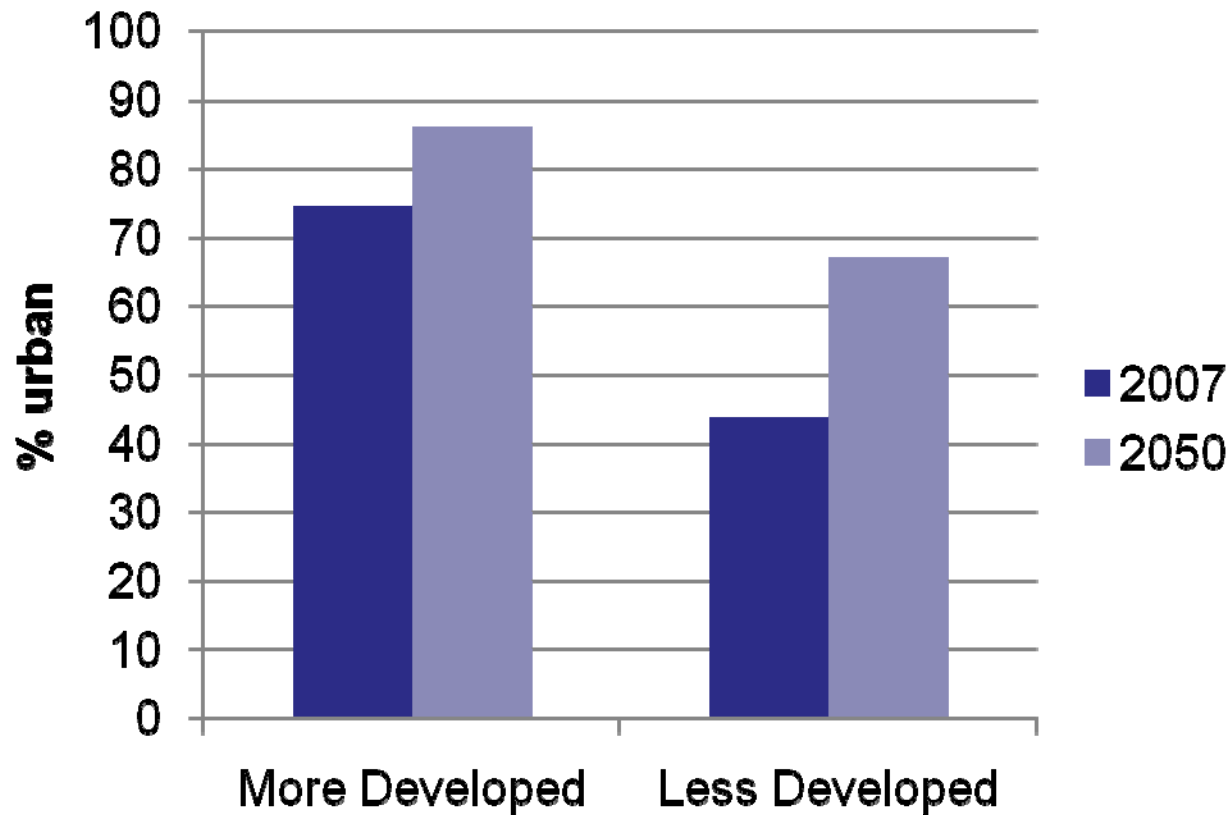


# Urbanization Has Varied by Region

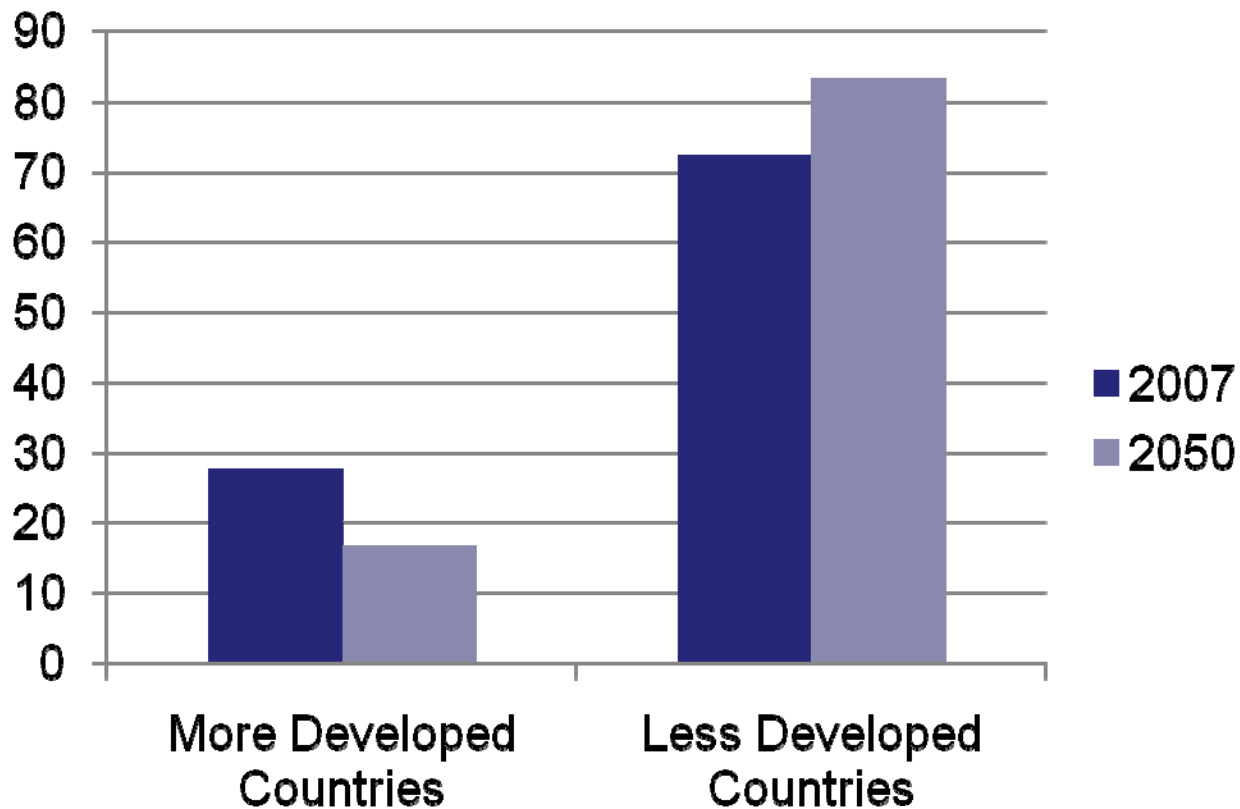


Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 2008. *World Urbanization Prospects: the 2007 Revision*. New York.

# Higher % urban in developed countries

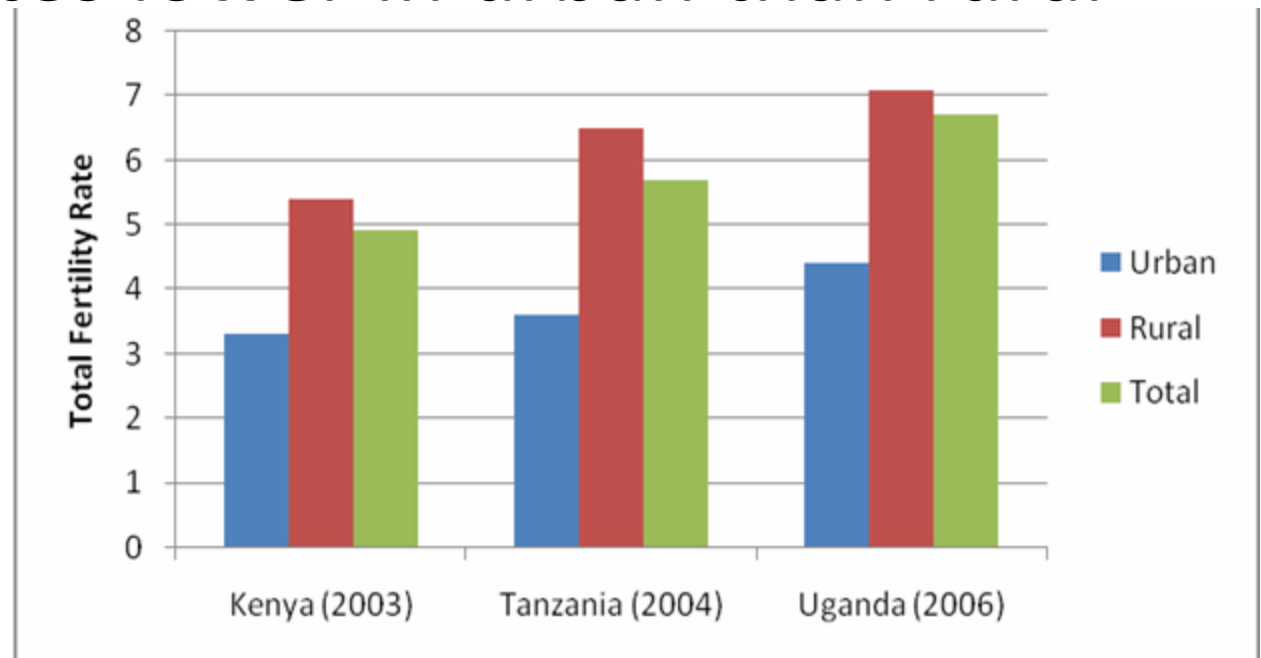


# By 2050, 80% of the world's urban population will be in developing countries



# What Drives Growth of Urban Population?

- Migration
- Natural increase
- Fertility rates lower in urban than rural areas



Source: Macro International Inc, 2008. MEASURE DHS STATcompiler. <http://www.measuredhs.com>, June 9 2008



# Urbanization Stresses

- City growth can outpace ability of local governments
- Informal settlements and slums often unconnected to basic sanitation systems
- Air pollution often exceeds the natural environment's ability to eliminate them



<http://jalopnik.com>



WWAP/G. Weybrecht

# Potential for Preserving the Environment through Urbanization

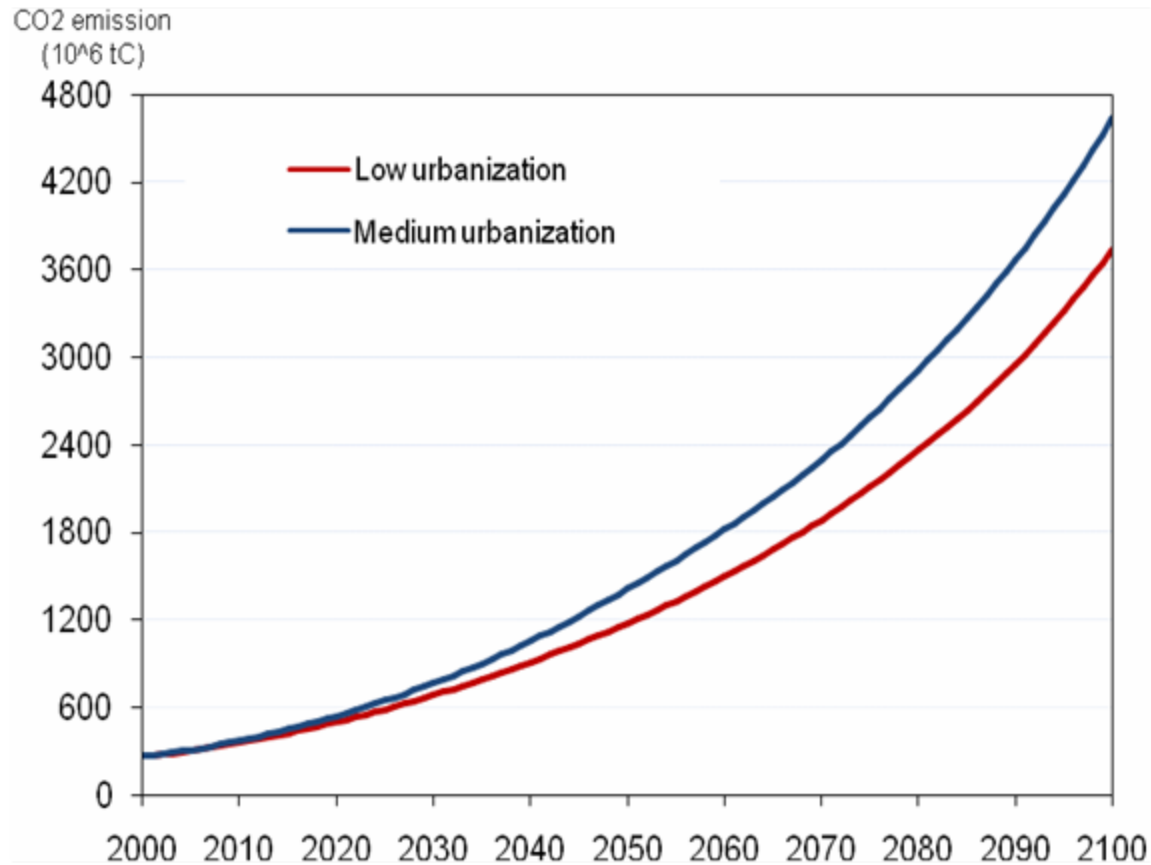
- **Cities offer many potential benefits**
  - Technical innovation
  - Access to information
  - Efficient land and energy use
  - Better living conditions
  - Provision of clean water
  - Access to health care services
- **New York per-capita greenhouse gas emissions are one-third of the U.S. average**



# Urbanization and the Environment: A Complex Relationship

- Environmental Kuznets Curve
- The theory holds for pollution that affects local urban environments
- Relationship less clear with impacts beyond local areas.

# Simulation of future urbanization and CO2 emission in India



# Urbanization is inevitable

- Complex relationships among urbanization, population growth , environment
- Raises ethical questions of equity in emissions
- Need to transfer cleaner and more efficient technologies without hindering development
- Need to invest in family planning



# Thank you



Photo: Institute for Transportation and  
Development Policy, Bogota, Colombia