

# Impact of Social and Economic Development in Southeast Asia on Urban Design Based on the Belt and Road Strategy

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**ABSTRACT.** *With the development of the times, the economy has achieved globalization, but the overall growth of economy has shown a slow trend. In contrast, the Southeast Asia has become a focus area for rapid economic development under the guidance of the Belt and Road Strategy. The Southeast Asian Economic Community has been formally established, and modern industrial construction has deepened with economic development. Urbanization is also integrated with the development of modern industrial construction. The development of urban design is also a visual reflection of economic construction and development of various regions in Southeast Asia.*

**KEYWORDS:** *The belt and road; Economy in southeast asia; Urban design, Impact*

## **1. Introduction**

With the deepening of reform and opening up, the process of urbanization in various countries has greatly improved. At the same time, many problems have arisen, and urban and rural development has gradually become unbalanced. A country with a good urbanization will have measures and plans suitable for its own development, taking into account both economy and urban design. After the reform and opening up, other countries learn from our political policies and support the development of combining walk-in and go-out. They take this opportunity to learn more from the economic development and urbanization of other advanced countries for better ways to develop [1].

## **2. Impact of Social and Economic Development in Southeast Asia on Urban Design Based on the Belt and Road Strategy**

The trend of political diversification in Southeast Asia has led to the dilemma of social and economic development. Some marginalized political forces have begun to demand more right of speech. They have tried to build a reasonable and balanced development model, which has led to the adjustment of equity structure of relevant

countries. The promulgation of the Belt and Road Strategy is an opportunity and a challenge for the construction and development of various countries. The Belt and Road Strategy holds high banner of peaceful development and jointly builds a community of interests, a community of destiny, and a community of responsibility with political mutual trust, economic integration, and cultural tolerance. In order to make the Belt and Road a consensus, we must go deep into the masses, strengthen law and order, and rationally plan urban and rural economic construction [2].

### **3. Process of Economic Development in Southeast Asia**

The history of economic development in Southeast Asia has undergone drastic changes from colonial economy to newly industrialized economy. Western powers have ruled the colonies of Southeast Asia for hundreds of years. Since World War II, countries in Southeast Asia have competed for independence and entered the era of national economic development. With the change of the times, the social and economic development of various countries has also changed. During the period of colonization, vast area of Southeast Asia was occupied by Western colonists as a market for commodity sales to plunder raw materials. These areas were regarded as a market for investment and implemented with a “single-crop system”. A country was forced to grow spices, and in the tropics it was forced to grow tropical crops. According to local conditions, each country was forced to grow locally suitable crops. Some countries specialized in the production of industrial products, and eventually transferred to Singapore for re-export trade. This perverted single colonial economy has worsened the economic situation of colonial countries, making them more backward and more dependent on Western capitalist countries. After the collapse of colonial economy, Southeast Asian countries began to liberate their economies, and their economies gradually developed steadily<sup>[3]</sup>. Singapore took the lead in entering the path of new industrialization. Subsequently, Malaysia and Thailand followed in the footsteps of their development to enter the middle stage of industrialization. But some later countries were still in the early stages of industrialization. Southeast Asian countries have been moving towards developed countries, but they have always made slow progress.

### **4. Development of Urban Design in Southeast Asia Based on the Belt and Road Strategy**

After President Xi Jinping proposed the “Belt and Road” development strategy, neighboring countries actively participated in and supported strategic cooperation, as well as Southeast Asian countries. Under the background of economic globalization, the economy of Southeast Asia has developed rapidly. The economic strength of Southeast Asian countries has steadily increased, and urbanization has been more reasonable in construction and development. There is a strong analogy between economic development in China and that in Southeast Asian countries, and the experience and lessons of urbanization development in China can be used for reference by Southeast Asian countries. The economy of Southeast Asian countries

is mainly based on agriculture and vigorously develops industrial economy. As a whole, there are great differences between urban and rural economy and develop unevenly. The development of urbanization in various countries is polarized, highlighting the differences between urbanization and rural economy. Urban design can reflect the economic and political strength of a city and a country. Only with the support of political forces and strong economic strength, can we better implement all aspects of urban design. China has developed friendly relations with other countries in the world with the guidance of the Belt and Road Strategy, and has established strategic cooperation to vigorously develop productive forces, so that the development of Chinese culture has been diversified, and overall national strength has greatly been improved. Subsequently, the right to speak internationally has been increased [4].

#### ***4.1 Implementation of Urban Design Scheme***

Southeast Asian countries and allies have learned from our political policies, and win-win cooperation is the absolute truth. In the aspect of urban design, we should invest financial resources and material resources to design image in combination with the special local culture, so that the city can reflect the local customs and form its own cultural characteristics. In addition, we should remove its dross and extract its essence. We can improve the existing urban construction environment and consolidate the unsatisfactory part of the urban characteristics to consolidate the characteristics of the city. In urban design, we should consider macro and micro factors, integrate the characteristics of geographical and natural environment to create urban landscape, so as to create landscapes that are more in line with urban characteristics. The creation of the viewing gallery should fully consider the light transmission and air fluency of surrounding environment to create a comfortable environment. In terms of micro factors, we should know how to use advantages of natural environment to set up functions and cooperate with the landscape, and think about how to coordinate the street environment and functions to improve the convenience service, how to design the application scope, and how to establish the overall sense of space to meet the urban and rural planning needs of the city.

#### ***4.2 Impact of Implementation of Urban Design and Planning***

In urban design, creative design can be added. The government should not make excessive restrictions on urban design, and should give a large framework. Within the scope of strength, we should actively do a good job in urban design to improve the quality of the whole city and create a beautiful environment that conforms to the characteristics of the city by virtue of the natural environment, and comprehensively improve the living environment of the citizens. Besides, we should infer a series of integrated and flexible urban programs, and add a diverse and energetic spirit and maintain flexible design. The scope of urban design is too wide, so that in the process of implementation, it involves the collision of values, and it is necessary to refer to the Urban Planning Standards and Guidelines for guidance to avoid disputes.

The economic development of countries in Southeast Asia is not consistent with the right to speak in the world. Each country and city should design and implement the urban landscape according to their own actual situation, so as to realize the reasonable design and implementation of urban design [5].

## 5. Conclusion

In summary, the economic development of various regions in Southeast Asia has also improved rapidly. However, there are still countries with different social and economic development and large differences in cities. The introduction of the Belt and Road Strategy has benefited many countries. The reform and opening up of China has been arduous and fast, and has certain reference significance. Countries in Southeast Asia can learn from lessons of other advanced countries on the Belt and Road, so as to develop their own economy, rationalize urban design, and comprehensively improve national living standards.

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