What is the World Bank Tokyo Development Learning Center (TDLC)?

WHO WE ARE

TDLC was launched in Tokyo in 2004 under a partnership between the Government of Japan and the World Bank.

TDLC is managed under the Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land Global Practice (GPURL) of the World Bank.

TDLC is a global one-stop knowledge hub for urban development, seeking to operationalize knowledge to maximize the development impact of World Bank projects in developing countries.

TDLC links Japanese and global expertise, generating new knowledge and technical insights and fostering new synergies.

From FY16 to FY20, TDLC influenced a combined portfolio of US$61.8 billion in committed World Bank lending operations in more than 80 countries.

OUR FOCUS

TDLC focuses on an array of demand-based key topics in urban development that leverage Japanese and global expertise to best support World Bank operations in developing countries.

To open new business lines at the Bank and push the urban development agenda forward, TDLC explores at least one new frontier topic annually.

TDLC applies and operationalizes cross-cutting Bank themes in all of our activities.

Key Topics  *Non-exhaustive list

- Solid Waste Management
- Transit-Oriented Development
- Affordable Housing
- Compact Cities
- Resilient Cities
- Smart Cities, Competitive Cities

Frontier Topics

- Aging Cities (FY2019)
- Creative Cities (FY2020)
- Healthy Cities (FY2021)

Cross-Cutting Themes

- Quality Infrastructure Investment (QII)
- Disruptive Technologies
TDLC’s program is evolutionary and agile in nature, and is aimed at meeting the changing demands of World Bank projects in developing countries. TDLC offers four core activities that are integrated as part of a value-accrative cycle of engagement—generating fresh insights and practical solutions in a timely manner.

**Technical Deep Dives (TDDs)**

TDD is TDLC’s signature one-week knowledge acceleration program, aimed at sharing key global and Japanese best practices to generate actionable solutions for World Bank projects in developing countries.

**Operational Support**

TDLC facilitates Operational Support activities to deliver customized capacity-building and advisory support as a follow-up for TDD participants. Operational Support leverages TDLC’s strong connection with Japanese cities and the World Bank’s global knowledge to provide tailored knowledge and technical assistance to address complex urban development challenges in developing countries.

**Insights and Publications**

TDLC drives its own research and actively contributes to the World Bank’s global flagship research. Drawing on Japanese and global best practices, TDLC distills and shares unique insights in the form of reports, blogs, briefs, and multimedia content.

**City Partnership Program (CPP)**

The City Partnership Program (CPP) hinges on TDLC’s strong partnership with select Japanese cities. Current partners are Fukuoka, Kitakyushu, Kobe, Kyoto, Toyama, and Yokohama, chosen for their leadership, actionable knowledge, and operational expertise on the subjects relevant to TDLC (as of August 2020).
TDD is a week-long knowledge acceleration program for participants from developing countries and their respective World Bank teams.

TDDs consist of presentations by leading experts in the field, site visits, group discussions, and action planning for tangible next steps.

TDDs result in actionable project designs that incorporate key lessons and approaches from both Japanese and global experiences.

Over 1,460 participants from over 80 countries have benefitted from knowledge and expertise shared by peers who represent projects worth US$60.2 billion in committed World Bank lending operations (FY16–20).
5 Key Benefits Provided by TDDs

1 TECHNICAL INSIGHTS
TDDs expose participants to cutting-edge policy thinking and technical knowledge. Japanese and global experts share their insights into development issues, which are selected based on demand and implementation needs from developing countries.

2 ACCELERATED PROJECT DESIGN
Participants are selected from existing or upcoming World Bank operations in the design or implementation stage. Participants and their respective World Bank teams spend a week in Japan engaging with technical expertise, knowledge, and resources and co-creating action plans, which provide actionable next steps that accelerate the design of World Bank projects.

3 COMMUNITY OF PEERS AND EXPERTS
TDDs serve as a convener of global expertise, bringing together peers from all over the world and creating a network of existing and new communities of practice. Participants benefit from being a part of this global community of urban practitioners.

4 CUSTOMIZATION OF KNOWLEDGE NEEDS
TDDs apply a diverse range of learning instruments, including site visits, peer exchange, one-on-one expert sessions, and e-learning, to ensure maximum knowledge absorption and customization of knowledge needs.

5 ACTIONABLE KNOWLEDGE AND ACCESS TO SUPPORT
The TDD program is action-driven with a focus on problem solving. Participants work with their World Bank counterparts to convert expert knowledge into an implementation-ready action plan. Plans are also linked to TDLC Operational Support to assist in their successful implementation.

TDDs SNAPSHOT

Solid Waste Management TDD (November 11–15, 2019)

“It is impressive how Japan implemented waste-to-energy technologies. We would like to know more about effective project schemes and appropriate applications of technologies.” — Participant from Indonesia

This TDD covered challenges within the entire value chain of solid waste management (SWM), and particularly focused on the issue of plastic waste in ocean environments.

Participants from 13 countries learned about key issues in SWM laws and policies, institutional structures, regulatory and financial mechanisms, citizen and private sector engagement, and technologies, both in Japan and abroad.

Participants visited the city of Kitakyushu, a leader in recycling, and joined the International Symposium on Marine Plastic and Ocean Litter organized by TDLC and Kitakyushu.

In addition to TDDs, TDLC hosts and co-organizes various knowledge exchange events in Japan and abroad, in order to share TDLC’s approach to urban development and bring relevant Japanese expertise and knowledge to a wider global audience.

See “Collaborate with Us” on page 11 to learn more about our collaborative opportunities.
Operational Support is demand-driven technical assistance to enhance ongoing and pipeline World Bank–financed projects in developing countries.

Operational Support provides customized advisories, analytics, and capacity building support to urban practitioners through two modalities: rapid support and extended support.

From FY16 to FY20, 104 Operational Support projects, some at the pipeline stage, were implemented in 35 countries, representing US$7.5 billion* in committed World Bank lending.

*Including US $5.9 billion supported by TDDs
Extended Support

TDLC offers demand-driven Extended Support to scale-up World Bank-financed lending and advisory works. TDLC also offers Rapid Support to meet immediate needs.

**Technical advisory:** Extends support through advisory on technical and policy matters, and analytical review of existing documents and baseline materials; also supports the development of strategies, roadmaps, and action plans to foster more sustainable, competitive, resilient, and inclusive urban development.

**Project preparation support:** Supports preparation of urban development components in operational projects.

**Implementation support:** Extends project supervision support by bringing Japanese and other knowledge and methodologies on board.

**Capacity-building support:** Helps enhance capacity of client organizations.

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SNAPSHOT

Operationalizing the Yokohama Citysketch Methodology in Barranquilla, Colombia

“**This intervention allows us the possibility to live in the city not just as citizens, but as architects, by reflecting and identifying the problems, and by giving us the power to propose solutions.”**

— Participants in the Barranquilla Citysketch Workshop

Conducted in collaboration with the City of Barranquilla, the city of Yokohama, and academics from Japan and Colombia, the workshop was a follow-up to the request from the Colombian participants who attended the Urban Regeneration TDD in February 2020.

The workshop included site visits to four neighborhoods with different geographic profiles, a sketching and envisioning exercise, and discussions about solutions to the problems deemed critical by participants.

Feedback from the workshop was positive, as participants felt it was an inclusive platform that provided them with a voice to propose innovative ideas in city planning. City governments have shown interest in further applying the methodology as a tool to analyze urban issues in other city areas.

The workshop applied the Yokohama Citysketch method—developed to translate community-led vision into urban design—to the regeneration of the Barranquilla waterfront area.
The CPP was launched in 2016; it relies on an in-depth partnership between TDLC and world-class Japanese cities. Current partner cities are: Fukuoka, Kitakyushu, Kobe, Kyoto, Toyama, and Yokohama.

The program leverages partner cities’ expertise and best practices derived from real experiences and shares such knowledge via various collaborative activities.

Examples of collaboration include inviting city officers as speakers for international and local conferences or TDDs, developing customized case studies showcasing their unique expertise and experiences, and dispatching CPP city delegates to support Operational Support activities.

From FY16 to FY20, the six CPP cities shared their knowledge and expertise at 71 TDDs and other events, produced 29 knowledge products in collaboration with TDLC, and influenced World Bank projects in more than 80 countries by joining TDDs and Operational Support programs.
KEY TOPICS OF ENGAGEMENT

Kyoto
- Cultural heritage
- Urban regeneration
- Sustainable tourism

Toyama
- Compact cities
- Aging and accessibility
- Disaster risk management, including flood control

Yokohama
- Comprehensive urban regeneration
- Resiliency and flood control measures
- Competitive and smart cities

Kitakyushu
- Solid waste management
- Circular economy
- Environment and marine litter

Fukuoka
- Transit-oriented development
- Innovation and start-up ecosystems
- Competitive and smart cities

Kobe
- Disaster risk management
- Competitive and smart cities
- ICT education
Drawing on the World Bank’s thematic expertise and the practical solutions provided by Japanese and global experts, TDLC drives its own research activities and actively participates in the World Bank’s global studies and flagship research reports.

The Insights and Publications activity documents insights and solutions from Japan and abroad to share in the form of reports, notes, blogs, and multimedia content.

TDLC also crystallizes insights on frontier topics to explore new ways of tackling pressing development challenges faced by real operations on the ground.

Key Publications

- **WHAT A WASTE 2.0: A GLOBAL SNAPSHOT OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT TO 2050**
- **YOKOHAMA: REINVENTING THE FUTURE OF A CITY**
- **KOBE: CREATIVE RECONSTRUCTION**
- **CULTURAL HERITAGE, SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND URBAN REGENERATION: CAPTURING LESSONS AND EXPERIENCE FROM JAPAN WITH A FOCUS ON KYOTO**
- **The Development Story of Toyama: Reshaping Compact and Livable Cities (Available in Fall 2020)**

Visit TDLC website!
COLLABORATE WITH US

TDLC’s success as a global knowledge hub is made possible through partnerships and collaborations with other leading knowledge providers. TDLC actively collaborates with other World Bank Group programs, as well as a wide range of external stakeholders from a variety of sectors, to deliver our knowledge to—and share global best practices with—urban experts and practitioners seeking practical solutions.

COLLABORATION SNAPSHOTS

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)

MLIT invited TDLC to moderate a high-level panel at the 2nd Africa-Japan Public-Private Conference for High Quality Infrastructure, part of the 2019 Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD).

MLIT delegations participated in and made presentations at TDLC’s Kenya Urban Development Workshop.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

TDLC is in close communication with JICA’s Urban and Regional Development Department (Current: Governance and Peacebuilding Department and Infrastructure Management Department) and Global Environmental Department about cooperating on World Bank Group projects and collaborating on Operational Support.

TDLC invited a speaker from JICA during the International Symposium on Ocean Plastics and Marine Litter in 2019.

Active Collaborators of TDLC

* Non-exhaustive list. By alphabetical order.

- Global Resilient Cities Network (GRCN)
- Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)
- Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)
- Tokyo Corporation
- UNESCO
- Urban Renaissance Agency (UR)

TDLC collaborates with professors/researchers from various universities

* Non-exhaustive list. By alphabetical order.

- Doshisha University
- Fukuoka University
- Kanto Gakuin University
- Ritsumeikan University
- University of Tokyo
- Waseda University