A Comparison of Quality of Life in Asian Capital Cities

Junyi Zhang, Professor

Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation, Hiroshima University

1-5-1 Kagamiyama, Higashi-Hiroshima, 739-8529, Japan

E-mail: zjy@hiroshima-u.ac.jp

One of the most important purposes of urban and transport policies is to directly or indirectly

contribute to the improvement of people's quality of life (QOL), irrespectively of developed

and developing countries. Especially, subjective aspects of QOL play a crucial role in the

measurement of QOL, where life satisfaction and happiness are two of the core attributes. Life

satisfaction can be understood as the result of satisfaction in the domains of life, while

happiness reflects the level of positive or negative affect perceived from daily experiences. In

this study residents' QOL in Asian Capital Cities, including Tokyo, Jakarta, Hanoi, and Phnom

Penh, will be compared with respect to various population groups in order to figure out

similarities and dissimilarities among the targeted cities.

Key Words: quality of life, Asian capital cities, happiness, life satisfaction, paratransit, developing countries