



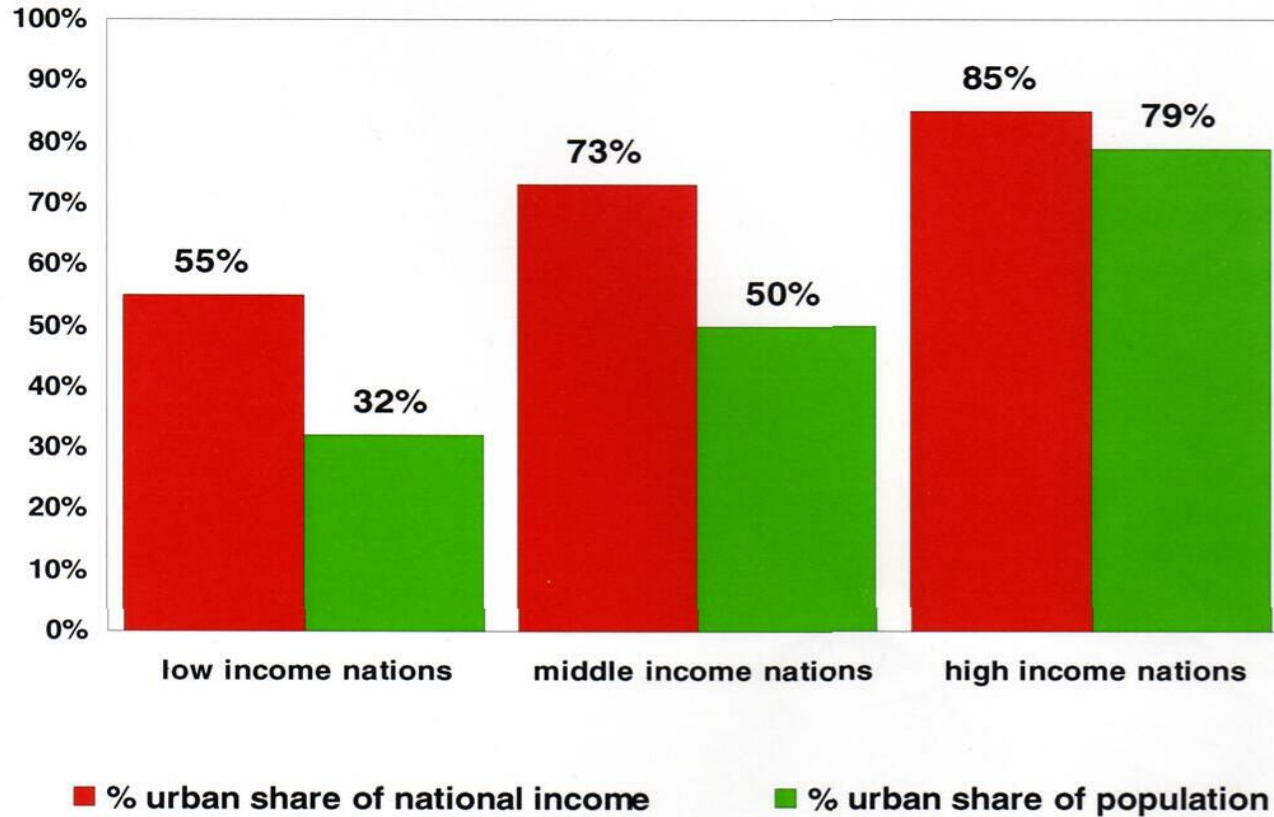
CITY DEVELOPMENT 2008  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates March 30-31, 2008

## **TEAMWORK:**

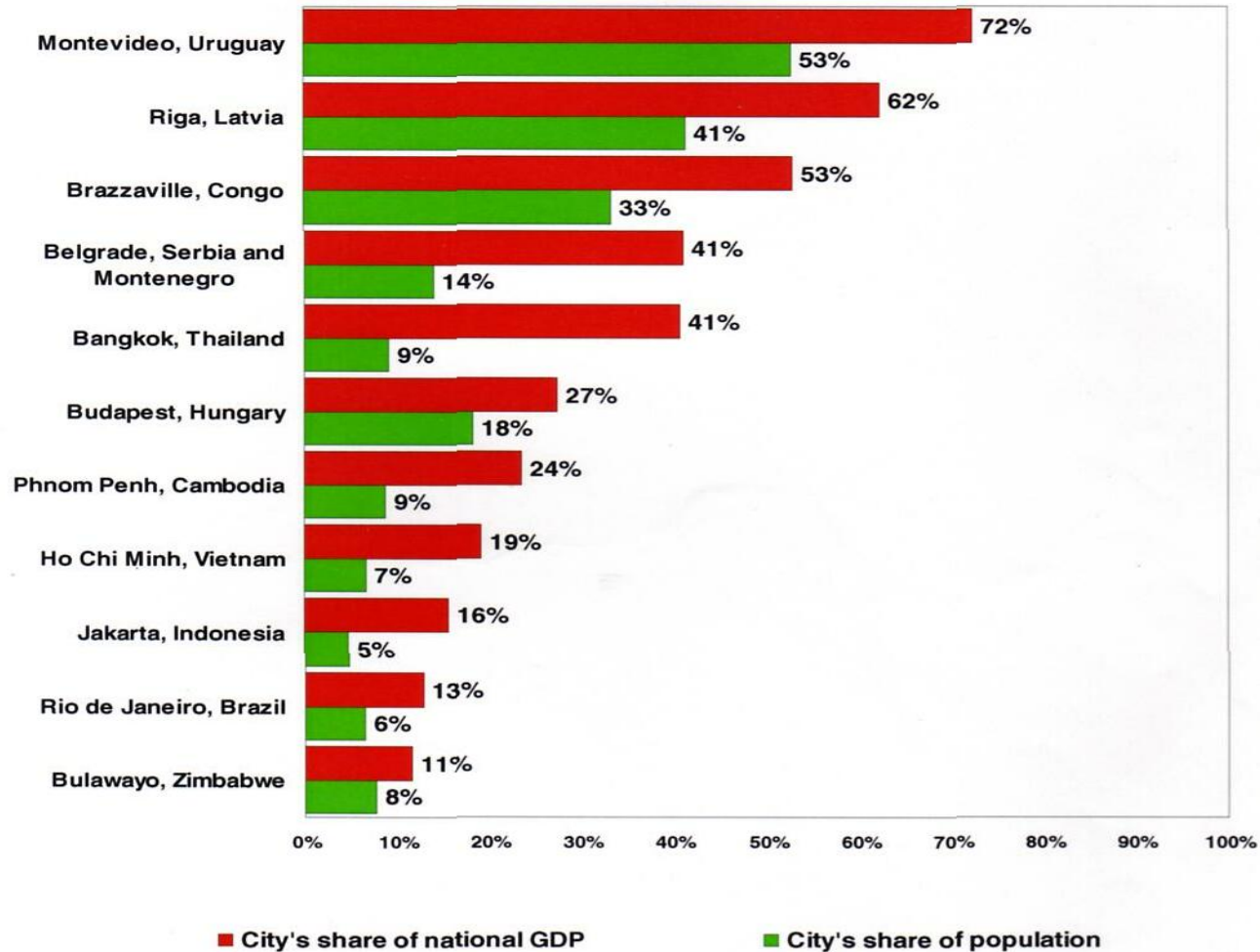
**WHY METROPOLITAN ECONOMIC STRATEGY  
IS THE KEY TO GENERATING  
CLIMATE PROSPERITY AND  
QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE WORLD**

**Dr. Marc A. Weiss and Jessica A. Wasserman  
Global Urban Development  
Washington, DC**

**Figure 1. In every nation, the urban share of national income is higher than the urban share of the national population.**



**Figure 2. In most cities worldwide, the city's share of national income is higher than the city's share of national population**



# Prague, Czech Republic

Population: 1.2 million

10% of national population

15% of national workforce

>20% of national GDP

>50% of national tourist revenue

## **“NEW ECONOMY” OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY:**

- Knowledge and Information-Based
- Technology and Communications-Intensive
- Globally Oriented

## Why Urban Areas are More Economically Productive

They combine **SPECIALIZATION** and **DIVERSITY**:

- the critical mass of skills and resources;
- the necessary population density and concentration of market incomes;
- the range of specialized knowledge and institutions;
- the wide diversity of vitally needed facilities and services;
- and the fully developed physical and human infrastructure that are prerequisites for new ideas, products and production methods, technological and organizational innovations, and dynamic economic growth and investment.

## **KEY ECONOMIC ROLES FOR CENTRAL CITIES AND URBAN REGIONS**

- centers of innovation and services, including advanced and highly specialized services
- centers of communication, culture, sports, entertainment, conventions, and tourism
- centers of education, research, and health care
- centers of transportation and trade
- centers of manufacturing and technology development
- market centers
- workforce centers

# Investing in Fundamental Assets and Building Dynamic Industry Networks

*A good economic strategy consists of two key elements:*

- 1) building from strength — investing in the fundamental assets and activities that make people more productive and places more valuable;*
- 2) generating dynamism — promoting modern, globally competitive industry networks that accelerate the pace of innovation and growth.*

# **PEOPLE are the most vital economic asset in the world**

## INVESTING IN FUNDAMENTAL ECONOMIC ASSETS:

- Transportation
- Infrastructure
- Education
- Workforce development
- Research
- Technology
- Markets
- Capital
- Environment and amenities
- Culture
- Quality of life

## **PROTECTING AND SUSTAINING THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF URBAN REGIONS TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE**

- reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and vehicle miles traveled (VMT);
- encouraging energy efficiency and resource conservation;
- improving clean air and conserving clean water;
- cleaning up and redeveloping toxic and polluted “brownfield” land;
- renovating historic structures and investing in urban cultural heritage;
- maintaining the beauty of natural landscapes and preserving agricultural land;
- increasing the accessibility of biking and hiking pathways and open spaces;
- curbing metropolitan sprawl and traffic congestion;
- reinvesting in older towns, cities, and inner-ring suburbs;
- expanding transit and other pedestrian and public transportation alternatives;
- promoting ecological and heritage tourism;
- developing parks and recreational amenities;
- developing “green” buildings, infrastructure, and communities;
- increasing recycling and the use of renewable energy sources;
- strengthening community planning and design.

## THE ROLE OF EQUITY AND INCLUSIVENESS IN URBAN ECONOMIC GROWTH

### Cape Town, South Africa: “Our Golden Thread”

“It is not a question of choosing global competitiveness or the reduction of poverty — Cape Town will achieve both or neither. Reducing poverty will strengthen global competitiveness, and global competitiveness will permit reduction of poverty through economic growth and job creation.”