TOPIC 16
Geographical inquiry: investigating an Asian megacity

16.1 Overview

Numerous **videos** and **interactivities** are embedded just where you need them, at the point of learning, in your learnON title at www.jacplus.com.au. They will help you to learn the content and concepts covered in this topic.

16.1.1 Scenario and your task

The latest liveability report for Asian megacities has been released, and residents are concerned. Populations are increasing by between one and five per cent every year, putting city infrastructure under extreme pressure.

City authorities have commissioned your team to put together a website increasing awareness of the characteristics of the Asian megacity and informing residents of current and newly proposed sustainable development planning initiatives.

Your task

Your team has been put in charge of creating a website designed to inform the residents of an Asian megacity about its characteristics. Each city will be different depending on its location, wealth or poverty, size and climate. Your investigations need to ensure that the audience can gain a comprehensive understanding of both population characteristics and city characteristics, and that any urban problems are presented. A key feature of your website will be to cover any urban solutions and innovations that are currently being implemented in your megacity.

16.2 Process

16.2.1 Process

- You can complete this project individually or invite members of your class to form a group.
- **Planning:** You will need to research the characteristics of your chosen Asian megacity. Research topics that have been loaded in the Resources tab to provide a framework for your research include: location and city characteristics (main economy, tourism, culture); population characteristics (migrants and migration, languages, religion); and urban problems, solutions and innovations. Choose a number of these topics to include in your website and ensure you add your own. Divide the research tasks among the members of your group.

16.2.2 Collecting and recording data

Begin by discussing with your group what you might already know about your chosen Asian megacity. Then discuss the information you will be looking for and where you might find it. To discover extra information about life in your Asian megacity, find at least three sources other than the textbook. At least one of these should be an offline source such as a book or an encyclopaedia. Remember that you will need to choose specific keywords to enter into your search engine to find other data. You can view and comment on other group members' articles and rate the information they have entered.

16.2.3 Analysing your information and data

- You now need to decide what information to include in your website. Maps to show location, graphs, tables and lists to illustrate data, and images and photos with annotations (descriptive notes) should all be included. Each of these should also have a written description. You should make sure that you have addressed each of the following points.
  1. Describe the pattern of distribution on each of the maps or satellite images you have drawn or collected.
  2. What are the main characteristics of your city?
  3. How has your city changed over time? Is information available on how it is predicted to change in the future?
  4. For what reasons are people attracted to move to this city?
  5. What are the main problems in this city? Are there any solutions being introduced to try to overcome these problems?
- Download the website model and website-planning template to help you build your website.
- Use the website-planning template to create design specifications for your site. You should have a home page and at least three link pages per topic. You might want to insert features such as 'Amazing facts' and 'Did you know?' into your interactive website. Remember the three-click rule in web design — you should be able to get anywhere in a website (including back to the homepage) with a maximum of three clicks.

16.2.4 Communicating your findings

Use website-building software to build your website. Remember that less is more with website design. Your mission is to inform people about your Asian megacity in an informative and engaging way. You want people to take the time to read your entire website.

16.3 Review

16.3.1 Reflecting on your work

Think back over how well you worked with your partner or group on the various tasks for this inquiry. Determine strengths and weaknesses and recommend changes you would make if you were to repeat the exercise. Identify one area where you were pleased with your performance, and an area where you would like to improve. Write two sentences outlining how you might be able to do this.

Print out your Research Report and hand it in with your website and reflection notes.