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Tokyo named Asia-Pacific's Greenest City

Posted by mcpatdu on 16 Feb 2011

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Japan's largest city earns top marks for the management of carbon emissions, public transportation and air quality.

The consulting firm Solidiance has named Tokyo the greenest major city within the Asia-Pacific region, Rounding out the top 10 Green Cities in Asia are Seoul, Melbourne, Singapore, Osaka, Sydney, Auckland, Busan, Taipei and Hong Kong.

Cities were evaluated according to CO2 emissions, energy, transportation, air quality, water, waste, green space and environmental governance and ranked according to Economy, Environment and Social factors. "A ranking of Asia Pacific green cities has never been done, and this was a response to our clients' requests for comparative Greentech market opportunities in the region. The analysis will be useful for businesses to understand which cities are more progressive in green development," says Damien Duhamel, the Managing Partner of Solidiance, in a statement. "It is heartening to see that developed Asia Pacific cities have placed an emphasis on ensuring that their city's ecosystem is sustainable. Developing cities can look towards the top ranked green cities for best practices to leapfrog the learning curve in cultivating a green urban ecosystem."

Cities account for 80 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions generated around the world. "Blaming cities for greenhouse gas emissions misses the point that cities area a large part of the solution. Well planned, well governed cities can provide high living standards that do not require high consumption levels and high greenhouse gas emissions," David Satterthwaite, Senior Fellow at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) is quoted as saying in the report.

Japan has always been a leading technological innovator, designing the objects and gadgets in use all over the world. Since Japan is an island, it must be more aware of environmental issues—specifically energy, water and waste— than other countries with land to spare. Leading Japanese developers and architects have shown the world that clean modern design for small spaces is possible and even stylish. Tokyo received top marks for CO2 Emissions and the comprehensiveness of its CO2 Management Policy and Promotion campaign, overall public transportation and overall air quality and environmental regulation. The city was second to Sydney for its overall renewable energy use, target and investment. It ranked third behind Melbourne and Singapore for overall water management.

Source: Solidiance

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