

# State-driven New Cities in Southeast Asia: Eco-Cities as Urban Solutions

Grace Commers

Department of Geography, McGill University, Montréal (Québec) Canada

2022

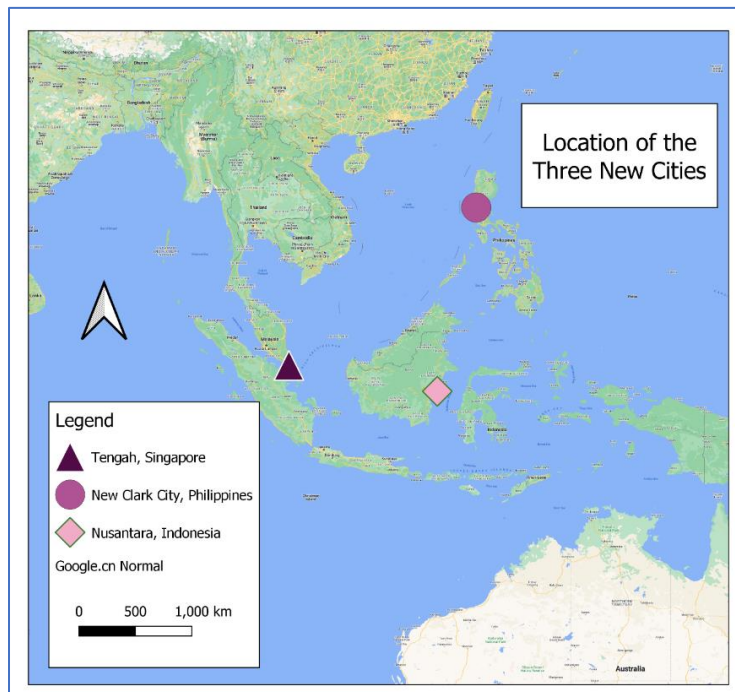
Supervisor: Professor Sarah Moser

Reader: Professor Madhav Badami

Over the past 15 years, new ‘eco-cities’ have been announced around the world with increasingly regularity to respond to intensifying urban challenges, particularly in the Global South. In Southeast Asia, urban mega-developments constructed in greenfield sites have increasingly adopted ‘eco-city’ branding and objectives. This thesis examines three such eco-city mega-developments in Southeast Asia: New Clark City (Philippines), Tengah (Singapore), and Nusantara (Indonesia). The three cities are presented as eco-cities, with technology, greenery, and other features promoted as environmentally sustainable. All are state-led projects initiated by the Housing and Development Board (HDB) of Singapore, the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) of the Philippines, and National Development Planning Ministry of Indonesia (Bappenas) and is presented as solutions to the issues of climate change, housing shortages, and urban challenges. This thesis examines how the globally circulating concept of an ‘eco-city’ is approached differently and how local priorities and politics shape each project.

*Keywords:* Eco-city, sustainability, urban mega-development, new city, Southeast Asia

## Location of the three new city projects



(Source: Google Maps & Researcher’s Analysis).