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Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program

Unlocking Private Investments in Sustainable Infrastructure in Asia:

Lessons from Central Asia

23+24.9.2020

Silk Road Smart Cities
Sustainability Drivers for Central Asia?

Nicolas J.A. Buchoud
Founding Principal, Renaissance Urbaine & Global Solutions Fellow

Renaissance URBaiNe

Photo Renaissance Urbaine, Nukus, Uzbekistan, 2019

‘Silk Road Smart Cities’ – centralized, government led, urban change and digital innovation…

President of Uzbekistan visits Tashkent City construction site.
Source: UZ Daily, 25/06/2019 http://www.uzdaily.com/en/post/50476

Aqkol becomes first smart city in Kazakhstan.
Source: The Astana Times, AIDANA YERGALIYEVA *in* NATION *on* 23 JANUARY 2019
https://astanatimes.com/2019/01/aqkol-becomes-first-smart-city-in-kazakhstan/

‘Silk Road Smart Cities’ – centralized, government led, urban change and digital innovation…with varying situations

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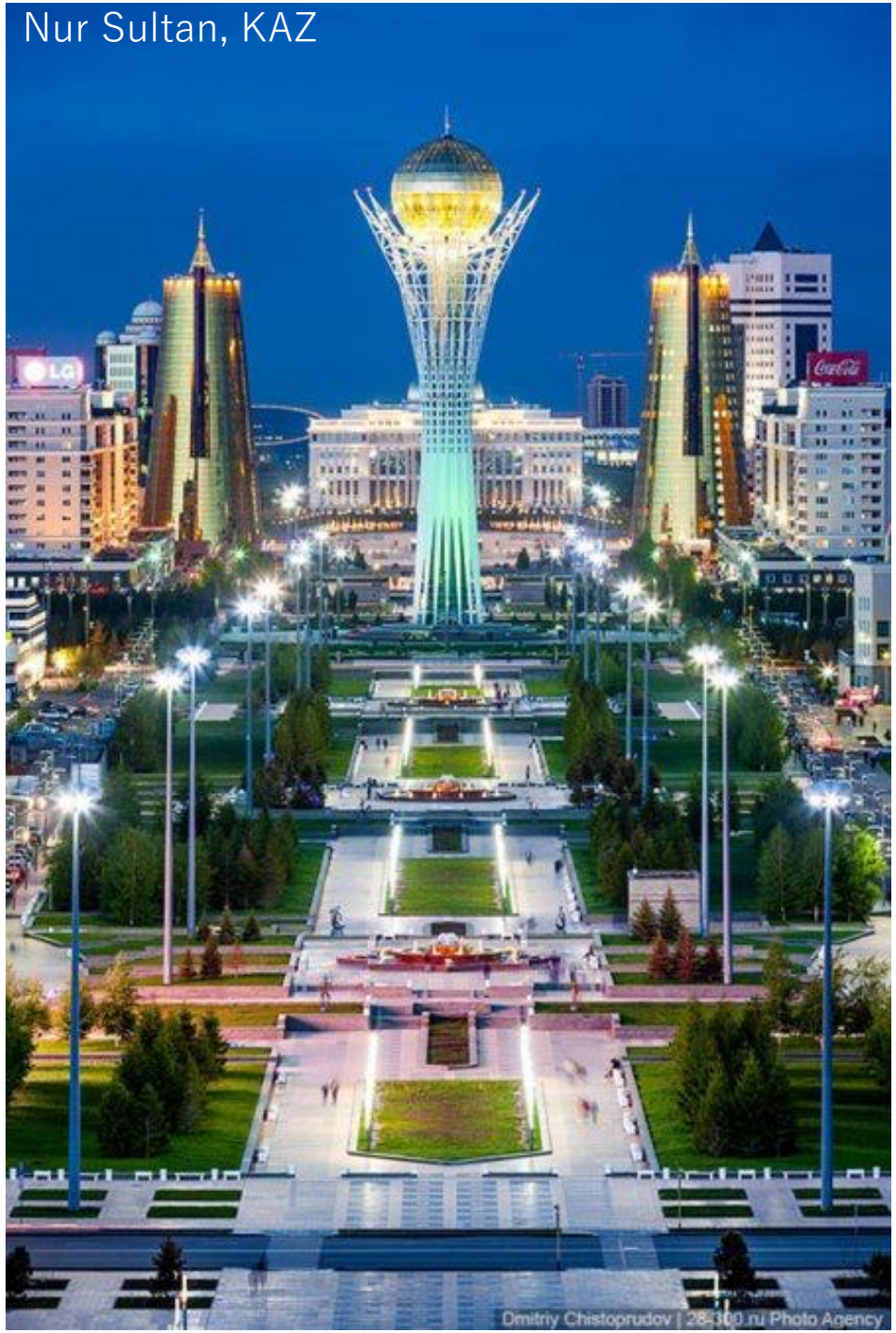
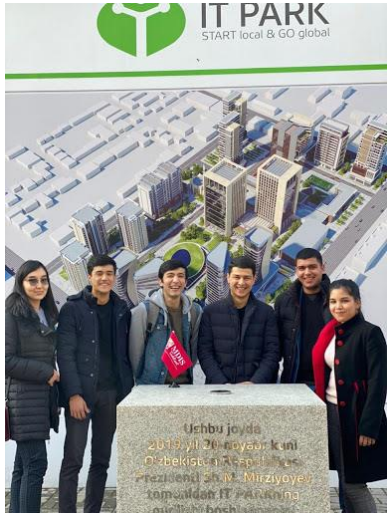
'Silk Road Smart Cities' -
Typical design and planning across the region

Source: "Business Center 'Tashkent City' to be Constructed in Uzbek Capital," UzDaily.com, July 10, 2017, https://www.uzdaily.com/articles-id-40052.htm.

"City in a city" mega-project to be implemented in Ashgabat (Choganly residential area) 27.03.2019 HTTPS://ORIENT.TM/EN/CITY-IN-A-CITY-MEGA-PROJECT-TO-BE-IMPLEMENTED-IN-ASHGABAT/





A field trip to Tashkent IT Park. Source: Management Development Institute of Singapore in Tashkent,Feb. 2020 http://www.mdis.uz/node/875

Official visit of Tashkent IT Park by the Presidnet of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Nov. 2019. Source: http://uza.uz/en/politics/president-visits-it-park-in-tashkent-20-11-2019

ОБ УЧРЕЖДЕНИИ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОГО УНИТАРНОГО ПРЕДПРИЯТИЯ «УМНЫЙ ГОРОД (SMART CITY)» По решению Председателя города Душанбе, уважаемого Рустами Эмомали, от 7 мая 2019 года, №276 было учреждено Государственное унитарное предприятие «Умный город (Smart City)».

ON ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE UNITARY ENTERPRISE "SMART CITY" By the decision of the Chairman of the city of Dushanbe, respected Rustami Emomali, dated May 7, 2019, No. 276, the State Unitary Enterprise "Smart City" was established.

The task of the Enterprise is to create the preconditions for the implementation of the decision of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan dated March 1, 2018, # 78 on the "Program of socio-economic development of the city of Dushanbe for the period until 2025".

World Bank and Government of Korea Express Support for Dushanbe City's Digital Transformation.
Source: World Bank Press Release, Feb. 4 2020, https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/02/05/world-bank-and-government-of-korea-help-support-dushanbe-citys-digital-transformation

'Silk Road Smart Cities' – Beyond design, the rise (and challenges) of urban governance

‘Silk Road Smart Cities’ -
At the crossroads of multiple influences and standards and norms

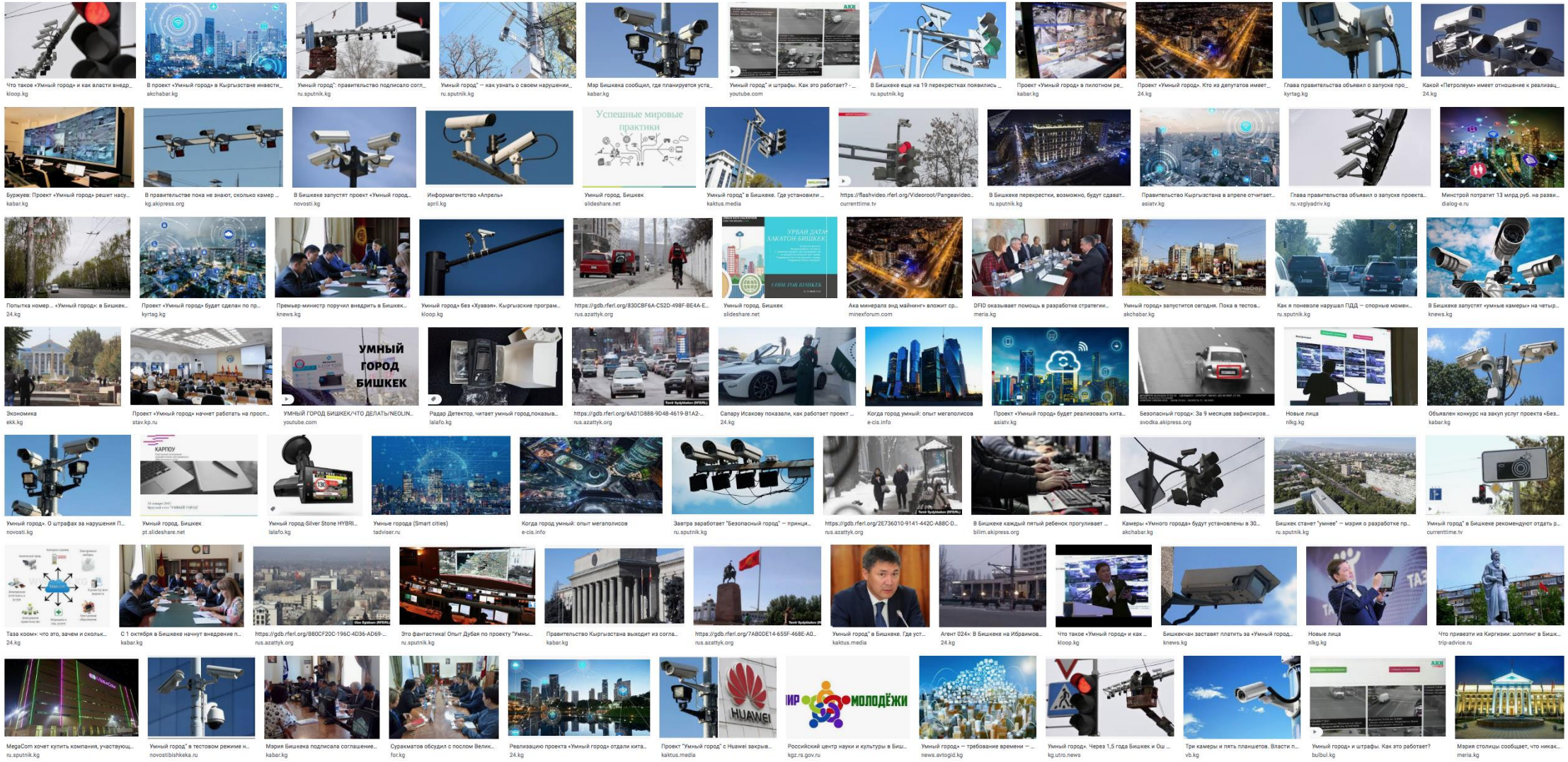
Advancing digitalization of urban and infrastructure management in Central Asian cities
Aqkol, Kazahstan. Source: The Astana Times, AIDANA YERGALIYEVA *in* NATION *on* 23 Jan. 2019
https://astanatimes.com/2019/01/aqkol-becomes-first-smart-city-in-kazakhstan/

Investing in city transformation in Central Asian second and thrid tier cities
A representative of the Chinese developer Wanda Group presents the companies vision for a « smart eco city project » in the city of Namangan at a meeting with the city administration in Feb. 2019.
Source of the illustration: nampravda.uz

In Kyrgyzstan, the national government withdrew in the spring of 2018 from a contract with the Chinese company Huawei to develop a ‘smart city concept’ in the capital. It later signed agreements in 2019 with Russian companies Rosatom Infrastructure Solutions and Sitronics. Renaissance Urbaine, 2020

‘Silk Road Smart Cities’ -

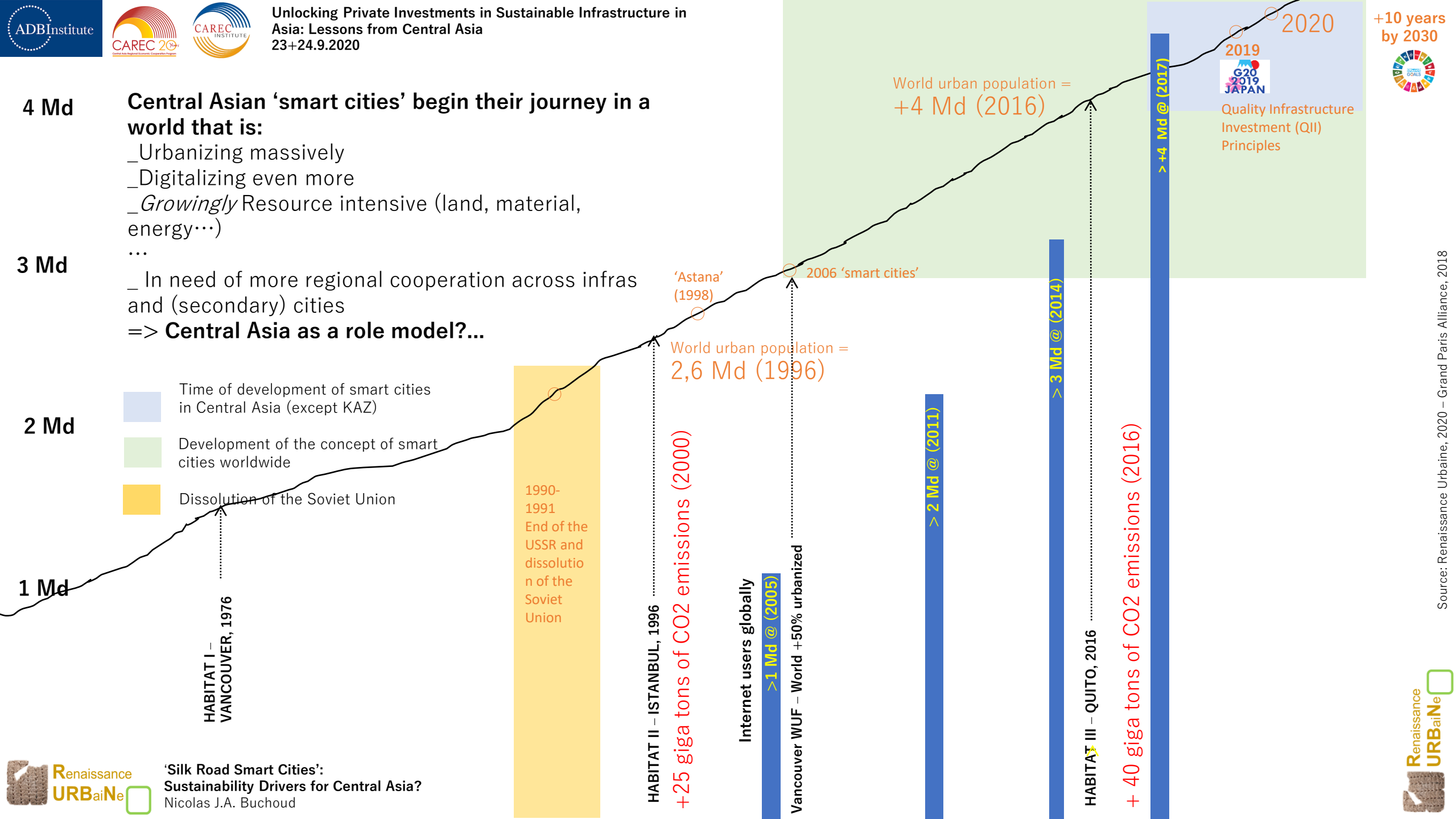
Entering in the digital era, together with citizens and the civil society (?)



Source: Google ‘image’ with the key words ‘бишкек умный город’, sept. 2020

Central Asian 'smart cities' begin their journey in a world that is:

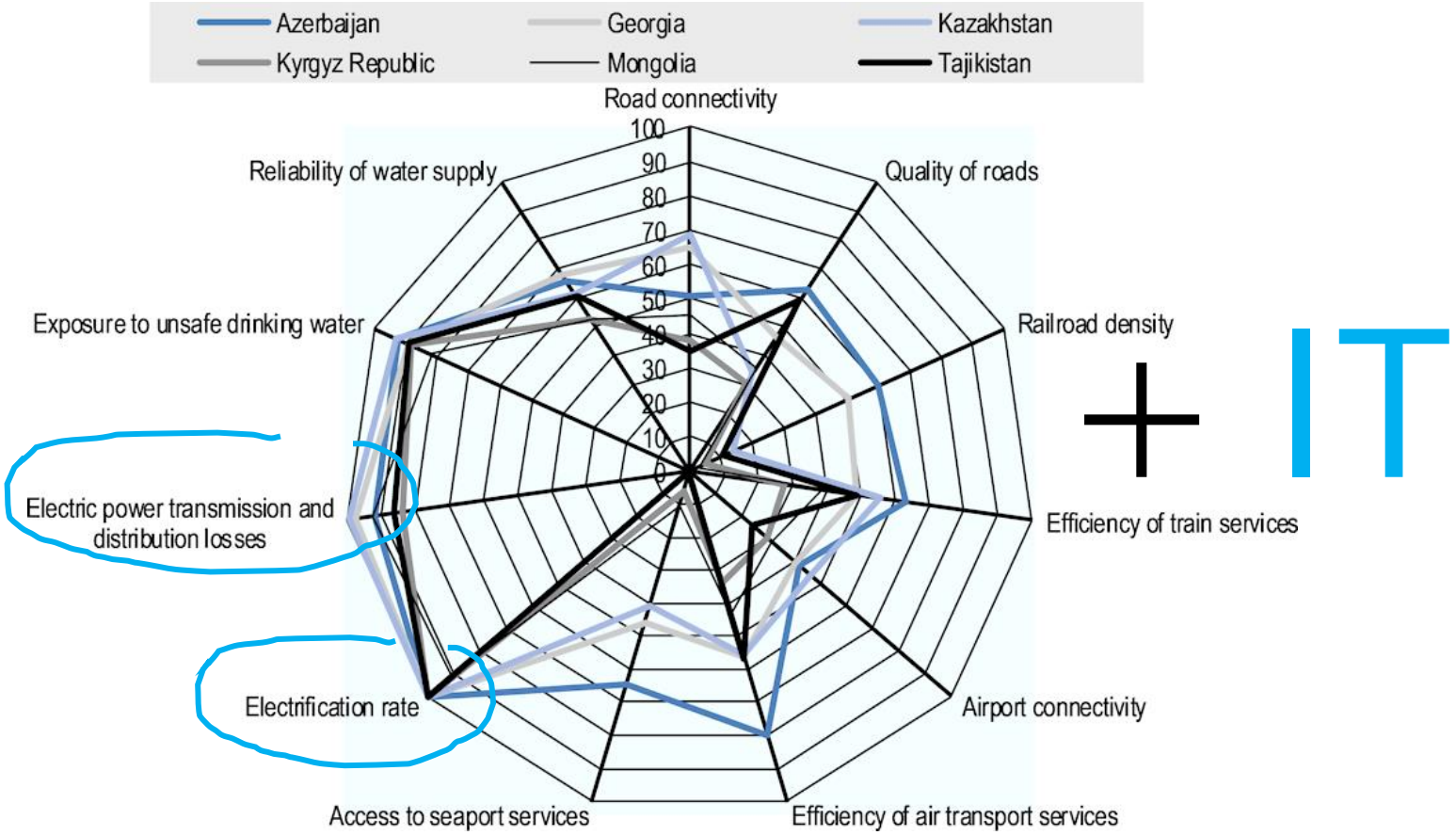
_Urbanizing massively
_Digitalizing even more
_*Growingly* Resource intensive (land, material, energy…)
…
_ In need of more regional cooperation across infras and (secondary) cities
=> **Central Asia as a role model?…**



Source: Renaissance Urbaine, 2020 – Grand Paris Alliance, 2018

‘Silk Road Smart Cities’ -
5 principles to building a sustainable regional future

1. **rely** on energy infrastructure (power grids) as advanced factors of regional integration
2. **develop** regional cooperation on green & blue infrastructure and nature-based solutions (environmental innovation)
3. **use** the QII principles as a common reference to support the development of IT investments towards quality and sustainability, across harmonized standards
4. **expand** the value chain of urban innovation (‘smart cities’) from capital cities to second and third tier cities to create a regional network of urban transformation, backed by sustainable infrastructure
5. **create** a regional smart city standard to harmonize and secure public and private investments in urban digital innovation and urban development



Source: World Economic Forum (2017[1]), *The Global Competitiveness Report 2017-2018*, World Economic Forum, http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GCR2017-2018/05FullReport/TheGlobalCompetitivenessReport2017%E2%80%932018.pdf

Thank you!

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