

Penang Forum 4:

Cleaner, greener? For whom?

By Anil Netto

What is GDP?

Gross Domestic Product

Measures the GOODS and Services of a country

But it does not measure the BADS:

- Environmental destruction
- Depletion of natural resources
- Deterioration of quality of life
- Disappearing of public spaces

Paradox

As GDP GROWS,

Nature SHRINKS

Penang – acute shortage of recreational space

Penang has less open space than almost all other Malaysian cities and towns

MPPP: 2ha per 5000 persons

Developed countries: 10-30 acres/1000 people

Limited green spaces



Youth Park



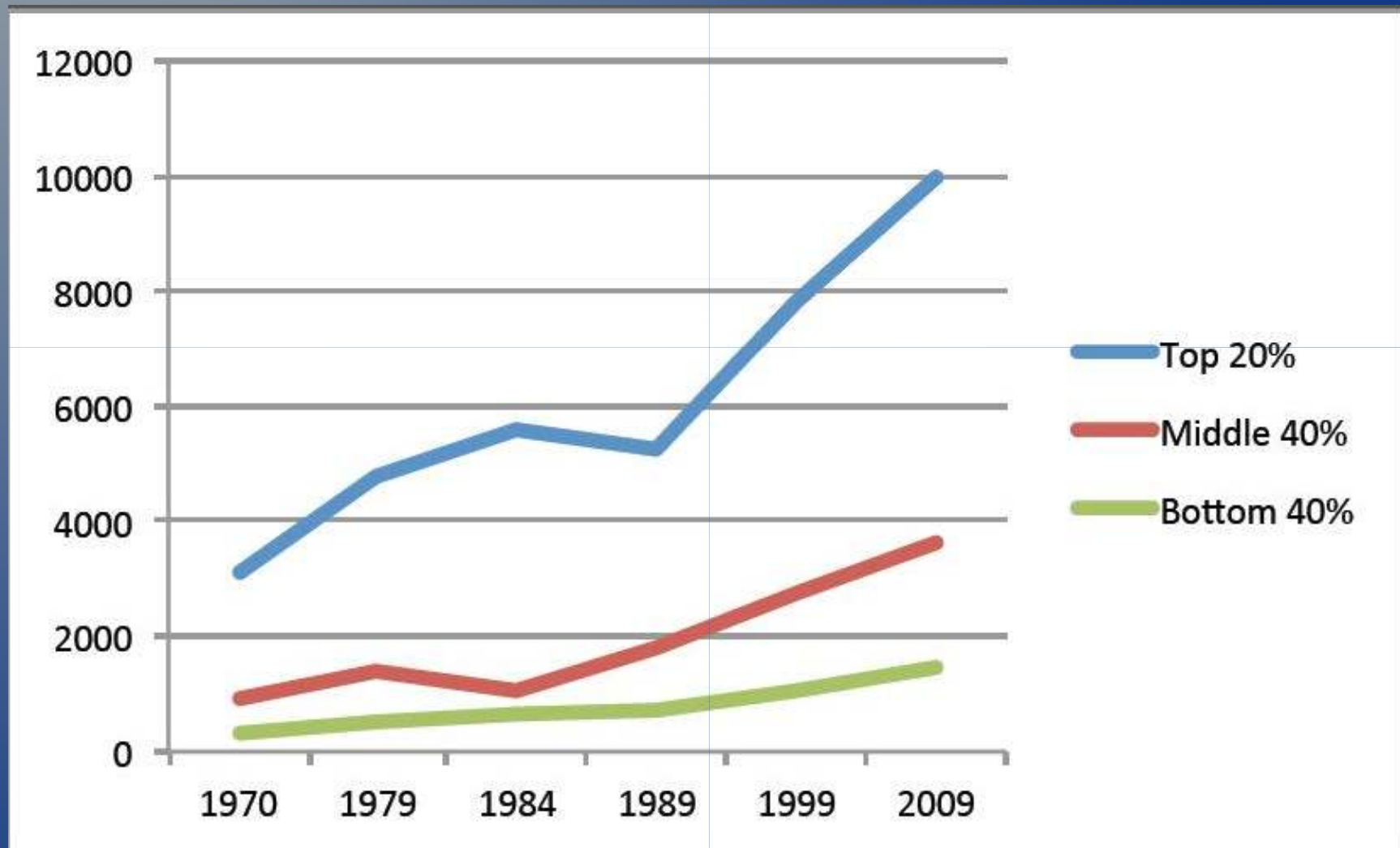
Need to protect Penang Hill



Edinburgh – The Meadows



Income gap widens



Housing for whom?



Low-cost housing: Badly maintained



Polluted seas



what happen to our sea?

Siltation, sedimentation



Penang Environmental Conservation Strategy 1998

- ┌ Proposed a system of conservation areas for the State
 - National parks
 - Wildlife sanctuaries
 - Bird sanctuaries
 - Mangrove reserves
 - Water catchment areas

Bayan Mutiara

Sold for RM1bn; RM500m for low-cost housing?



Land reclamation – East Coast Park in Singapore

