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55th NATIONAL TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNERS CONGRESS: REFORMS IN TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING LEGISLATIONS

On the invitation of Government of Kerala, the 55th National Town and Country Planners Congress was organized by the Institute of Town and Country Planners, India from 9th to 11th January, 2007 at Kochi, Kerala. The main theme of the Congress was 'Reforms in Town and Country Planning Legislations' with a further focus on the sub-themes of 'Emerging Town and Country Planning Processes', 'Making Cities Safer', 'Participatory Planning', and 'Development Control Regulations and

Byelaws' as the local theme. The Congress was sponsored by the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India; and co-sponsored by the Department of Local Self Government, Government of Kerala; Delhi Development Authority; Town Planning Department, Government of Kerala; Greater Cochin Development Authority; Goshree Island Development Authority; Corporation of Kochi; Jaipur Development Authority; Rajasthan Housing Board; DLF Universal Limited; and MVL Infrastructure Limited.

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While inaugurating the Congress, His Excellency Shri R.L. Bhatia, Hon'ble Governor of Kerala complimented the Institute of Town Planners, India, on its initiative to host this confluence of experts and seasoned professionals in Kerala, the God's Own Country. Shri Bhatia noted that the main theme and sub-themes of the Congress are most topical and appropriate, particularly when the country is experiencing a steady process of all round progress and development. He further stated that it is indeed commendable that the major objective of the Institute remains fostering professional activities in order to promote planned development of towns, cities and rural areas. Development, as we all know, will become meaningful only when it involves the economic, scientific and artistic aspects as well. It is in this area that the experience and expertise of senior planners and seasoned professionals should be utilized to produce better results.



Shri D.S. Meshram, President ITPI; Shri Aniyan Mathew, Vice President, ITPI; and Shri Pradeep Kapoor, Secretary General, ITPI; escorting the Hon'ble Governor of Kerala, Shri R.L. Bhatia on his arrival to venue.

Most of the State Governments have established city development



Shri R.L. Bhatia, Hon'ble Governor of Kerala releasing the Souvenir during Inaugural Session. Present on the dias are Shri D.S. Meshram, President ITPI; Shri Pradeep Kapoor, Secretary General, ITPI; and Shri Aniyam Mathew, Vice President, ITPI; (from L to R)

authorities that are endowed with enough powers to prepare, implement and enforce master plan proposals. These authorities have largely contributed to urban development in the various States. However, urban and regional planning is faced with a series of complex problems that have to be tackled with prowess and far-sight. There has to be a network of local and topical issues clamoring for immediate and positive intervention. Modernization of ports and airports, for instance, has assumed greater importance, along with rapid improvement of infrastructure. The establishment of Information Technology Parks, Knowledge Cities and the launching of initiatives such as the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Special Economic Zones (SEZ) indeed have been trendsetters. What is imperative is to avail these facilities and inputs properly and most effectively to experience inclusive growth.

The Kerala Municipalities Act 1994 and the *Panchayat Raj* Act 1994 aimed at the creation of District Planning Committees and devolution of powers to local bodies. Empowering the *Panchayats* for rural governance has

also been carried out through the three-tier system. Lessons of similar participatory planning and decentralization processes are sure to stand delegates in good stead when they deliberate upon the emerging scenario of both city and country planning in the wake of modern advancement of Indian economy.

Shri D.S. Meshram in his presidential address underscored various issues relating to the theme of the Congress. He noted that the chief objective of the ITPI is to promote and inculcate awareness and understanding of the subject of urban and regional planning, and its relevance and application to the ever-changing scenario of our towns, cities, and regions, in addition to the advancement of the study in town planning, civic design and other related subjects. Apart from, looking after the interests of the professional planners, the Institute has been promoting systematic research in areas pertaining to planning and development of human settlements and the surrounding environments. In order to rationalize the recruitment of town and country planners and to provide fresh avenues for planning graduates, the Institute has prepared the Model

Recruitment Rules for the consideration of central and state governments. With a view to strengthening the publications programme, the Institute has been encouraging Regional Chapters to publish Newsletters and Planning Journals, apart from setting up and upgradation of Chapter libraries with modern hardware and software. Of course funding for these activities is being provided by the ITPI, New Delhi. To facilitate the deliberations on regional and local issues, the ITPI has been organizing a number of Zonal Conferences throughout the country since the last five years.

The ITPI is also interacting with the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) for promoting town and country planning education. Members would be happy to note that on the persistent persuasion of the ITPI, the AICTE has constituted a separate All India Board of Studies in Town and Country Planning Education from 1st September, 2006 under the chairmanship of the President of the ITPI. On the initiative of the Institute the Ministry of Human Resource Development is considering to set up two more Schools of Planning and Architecture in the central sector. Thus, efforts are being made to promote planning education and practice throughout the country.

Coming back on the main theme, it may be appropriate to highlight that in the wake of new found economic confidence, the country has launched major initiatives for building core infrastructure such as construction of golden quadrilateral road network connecting various important cities, initiatives to build mass rapid transit systems in major metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bangalore; development of new and modernization of the existing ports and airports, and more recently launched initiatives such as the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and establishment of the

Special Economic Zones, beside Information Technology Parks, Knowledge Cities, Malls, Multiplexes, Game Villages, etc; throughout the country. Prior to these mega initiatives, governments have undertaken major reforms in urban and rural local government through 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution of India in 1992, which provide a framework for participatory processes and devolution of urban planning functions to municipalities, among other aspects.

In fact planning of the towns and cities in India date back to the Vedic times. The idea of making development plans for cities is not new to India. Most of our cities, which left their imprint on the world civilization, were built on the basis of well-conceived plans. However, the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947 of England inspired the statutory process of master plan making in India. As a result, in the first annual Town and Country Planners' Congress of the Institute of Town Planners, India held at Hyderabad in 1953, Model Town and Country Planning Legislation was discussed. Subsequently, the Central Town and Country Planning Organization, Government of India drafted the Model Town and Regional Planning and Development Law, in collaboration with the ITPI, which was adopted by most of the States with

certain modifications to suit local conditions.

The enactment of the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution of India is indeed a first step in the process of devolution of powers to the people at the grassroots level. These amendments make provision for the constitution of the Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC) for every metropolitan area to prepare a Draft Development Plan of the metropolitan area. A new Twelfth Schedule has been added to the Constitution in which a number of functions have been assigned to the local bodies. Among them, urban planning including town planning, regulation of land use and construction of building and planning for economic and social development are on the top of the list.

In order to create barrier free environment in consonance with provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment, Government of India with the aim to ensure that everyone irrespective of age and health, including the physically disabled and elderly persons will have equal access in everyday life in our cities and towns emphasizes that we should amend or modify existing laws,

rules and regulations and issued guidelines to be followed while creating build environment. The adoption of the provisions of the Act of 1995 is mandatory.

At the instance of the then Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment; Urban Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (UDPFI) Guidelines were formulated by the ITPI, which recommended urban development planning system comprising of a set of four inter-related plans. (i) Perspective Plans – a long term policy plan for twenty to twenty five years; (ii) Development Plan – conceived within the framework of the approved Perspective Plan co-terminus with the term of local bodies; (iii) Annual Plans – conceived within the framework of Development Plan, it is a Plan containing the physical and fiscal details of projects that the local authorities intends to implement during the respective financial year; and (iv) Plans of Projects / Schemes – conceived within the framework of approved Development Plan / Annual Plan these are detailed Working Layouts for execution.

To be implemented over the next seven years, the Government of India has taken a major initiative in the form of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), which entails investment partnerships among the central government, state governments and urban local bodies. Massive central assistance to states and urban local bodies has been linked to the implementation of reforms of two kinds i.e. mandatory and optional. Mandatory reforms among others include Implementation of decentralization measures as envisaged in the 74th Constitution Amendment Act, repeal of Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act, etc. While optional reforms include revision of byelaws to streamline the approval process for construction of buildings, development of sites, etc., simplification of legal and procedural frameworks for conversion



Shri R.L. Bhatia, Hon'ble Governor of Kerala congratulating Shri D.S. Meshram, President ITPI; for organizing the Congress at Kochi (from right to left)



Audience in the Congress

of agricultural land to non-agricultural purposes, etc.

Under the JNNURM, it is mandatory to prepare City Development Plans or CDPs, the scope of which has been narrated in the government sponsored Tool Kit. The CDP focuses on the development of economic and social infrastructure, strategies that deal specifically with issues affecting the urban poor, strengthening of municipal governments and their financial accounting and budgeting systems and procedures, and elimination of legal and other bottlenecks that have stifled land and housing markets. The CDPs emphasize on attracting investments and remain silent on spatial dimensions of development.

Under the policy of Special Economic Zones (SEZ), over 140 special economic zones spread over 40,000 hectares involving investment of Rs.100,000 crore with a potential to generate 5,00,000 jobs have been envisaged. Large chunks of land near growing urban areas or at other strategic locations such as near airports or seaports have been proposed to be developed by the private sector, with relaxed development control regulations, which will have direct bearing on the mother city.

Although cities are engines of economic growth, these are still prone to a

number of vulnerabilities. Lack of basic services such as water, sanitation and non-functioning drainage systems could make cities unsafe not only for a large majority of poor people who live and work in the growing cities but also the rich and middle classes. Even safety and security of citizens have become a planning issue giving rise to 'gated communities', secluded places inhabited by the rich and powerful.

One cannot deny the fact that a majority of our towns and cities are not safe for human habitation because major parts of the country suffer from one or other natural hazards, most common among them are earthquakes, cyclones and floods. It is pathetic to observe that some areas are devastated by floods at the same time some other areas in the country are suffering from vagaries of drought and struggling to get even a drop of water. In fact, most of the damages caused are due to the reason that major focus in disaster prone areas is to provide relief after the disaster takes place rather than to prevent these disasters. Therefore, the important factor needs consideration is to plan for pre-disaster mitigation rather than post-disaster relief.

Participation of people who have stakes in the planning process is vital. Participation could affect the nature of plan formulation, implementation of

planning policies and enforcement of the plan itself. In the present planning practice, public participation is generally secured at the plan making stage but what is required is to involve the public not only at plan making stage but also implementation, and enforcement stages. State Governments and urban local bodies need to recognize the fact that there is sizeable number of knowledgeable individuals in the public who are capable of determining their own development needs and giving practical and better solutions to the problems than what is emerging from other side of the table. Therefore, people are required to be invited to participate in the process. To create enabling conditions for public participation is the sole responsibility of the planners, politicians. One of the significant provisions on the 74th Constitution Amendment Act is the composition of Ward Committees with a population of more than three lakh in urban areas to achieve people's participation at the grassroots level. Ward Committees could be most effective tool for achieving participatory planning and governance.

Urban and regional planning is one of the professional services that is likely to be opened to other countries under World Trade Organization's General Agreement for Trade in Services (GATS). Under Urban Sector Reforms, efficiency in accounting system and property tax collection, rationalization of stamp duty, etc; is being advocated. Introduction of services through new organizations, new planning instruments, etc; would solve some problems but in the process would generate some new problems. For example CDPs under the JNNURM is silent on integration with master plans and even do not take cognizance of the presence of master plans, which are an important statutory instrument in guiding and regulating development of towns and cities and contributes to planned development both conceptually and operationally. Similarly, in the project of SEZ there is

every possibility that the areas lying between the existing city and proposed SEZ could be used by the speculators resulting in haphazard and unintended growth creating slum like conditions. It is also important to note that there is a huge gap between local interests and the interests of the global and Indian capital. For example, meeting aspirations of local people may be the last priority of those elite businesses, which intend to establish world class residential, commercial, and industrial spaces in the areas declared as SEZs. Demand for location of large complexes like Information Technology Parks, Knowledge Cities, Cyber Cities, Malls, Multiplexes, Game Villages, etc; is increasing throughout the country but there is no provision in the prevailing acts, rules and regulations. These specific purpose vehicles therefore, should become part of total gamut of planning system for achieving goals of economic growth and planned development.

It would be pertinent to note that the prevailing legislations enacted by various governments were drafted in early 1950s and are not geared up to accommodate and incorporate the impacts of these major initiatives. Therefore, there is an urgent need to study the provisions of the existing rules, regulations and laws in depth and suitably change them to accommodate the new initiative being launched in the country, and also to take cognizance of the latest technological innovations like remote sensing, GIS, GPS and other implementation tools like TDR, AR, land pooling, TPSs, etc.

Development control regulations and byelaws formed the local theme for this Congress. Government of Kerala made an attempt during 1981 to enact a unified Town and Country Planning Act for Kerala. After 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendment Act, Kerala has enacted the Kerala Municipalities Act, 1994 for administration, creation of District Planning Committees and devolution of powers to local bodies.



Shri K.J. Sohan, Former Mayor of Kochi and Chairman Standing Committee, the Chief guest in the Plenary Session, addressing the delegates.

Similarly the *Panchayat Raj* Act 1994 is enacted for the administration and devolution of powers to the three-tier system of the *Panchayat Raj*.

During the 9th Plan period decentralized Planning system was introduced in Kerala with the State Planning Board as the nodal agency, which prepared handbooks, guidelines, government orders for the implementation of decentralized planning in Kerala through Peoples Planning Campaign, a unique experiment in the whole of India. In addition, Town and Country Planning Department prepared the Draft Town and Country Planning Bill in tune with the provisions of the 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendments and decentralized planning system prevalent in Kerala. This Draft Bill is in its final stage of enactment, and the State Government would benefit from the experiences of other states through this Congress. In addition Development Control Rules and Building Bye Laws will be formulated soon in conformity with the planning legislation.

The messages received on this occasion from dignitaries were read by Shri Aniyam Mathew, Vice President, ITPI. Welcome address was given by Shri Pradeep Kapoor, Secretary General ITPI and vote of thanks was extended

by Shri Epan Varughese, Chief Planner, Government of Kerala.

Shri D.S. Meshram, President of the ITPI, chaired the Plenary Session. There were three key speakers namely Shri A.R. Patharkar, former Director, Town Planning and Valuation Department, Maharashtra, Dr. S.K. Kulshrestha, Founder Editor SDR, and Shri B.N. Singh, Director, AMDA.

Shri K.J. Sohan, former Mayor of Kochi and Chairman Standing Committee was the Chief Guest. In his address he highlighted the issue of central sector schemes like the JNNURM and UIDSSMT. He said that these schemes do not mention the need for preparation of CDPs in tune with master plans. The DPRs prepared under the scheme follow piecemeal approach and emphasized that projects are required to be implemented under the scheme should be selected within the broad framework of Master Plans. He also lamented that even though planning functions have been devolved to local bodies but in the absence of involvement of planners, the spatial planning functions, can not be performed effectively by DPCs. Therefore, he highlighted the need to have capacity building in the municipal councils, and also to induct planners as members in DPCs on

priority, so that they can perform the planning functions effectively.

Shri V. Suresh, former CMD of HUDCO, the Guest of Honor, suggested that a programme for capacity building of urban local bodies in the domain of town and country planning should be initiated. In this direction the ITPI should take lead through their Regional Chapters, which are located in capital cities of States. For the safer cities, he recommended to adopt DCRs in tune with National Building Code, 2005. On the issue of housing the poor, he was of the opinion that access to land is most crucial issue. Shri S.B. Khodankar and Ms. P.R. Usha Kumari were rapporteurs in this session.

Workshop - I on 'Emerging Town and Country Process' was chaired by Shri J.P. Bhargava, Past President, ITPI in which Dr. A.N. Sachithanandan, former President ITPI; Dr. K.R. Thooyavan, former Chief Town Planner, CMDA; Shri J.B. Kshirsagar, Chief Planner, TCPO and Shri S.C. Mahagaonkar, Chief Town Planner, Jaipur Development Authority; made the presentation as key speakers. Shri Ranjan Chattopadhyaya was the rapporteur in the session.

Workshop -II on 'Making City Safer' was chaired by Shri A.R. Patharkar, Past President, ITPI in which presentations



Shri K. Babu, MLA, Tripunithura, the Chief Guest of the Workshop III being welcomed by Shri Pradeep Kapoor, Secretary General, ITPI.

were made by Dr. S.P. Bansal, Additional Commissioner, DDA; Dr. S.K. Panigrahi, Director (Environment) in the Planning Commission; Shri J.K. Gupta, Principal College of Architecture I.T.T. Bhabhal and Shri B.S. Sokhi, Head Human Settlement Analysis Division, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun. Prof. Baby K. Paul was the rapporteur.

Extra Ordinary General Body meeting was organized for the members to discuss the 'Role of Development Authorities in the light of 74th Constitution Amendment Acts', which was attended by more than 100 members of the ITPI.

Shri V. Satyanarayan, former Vice President, ITPI chaired Workshop – III on 'Participatory Planning' and Shri Ranjan Kop, Director, Town Planning and Valuation Department, Maharashtra, Shri S.K. Das, Associate Planner, Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority and Shri Jacob Easow, Senior Town Planner, Town and Country Planning Department, Kerala made their presentations while Shri Debasis Paul acted as the rapporteur for this session.

Shri K. Babu, MLA Tripunithura, the Chief Guest of this session highlighted the need for integration of City Development Plan and Master Plans to achieve better results for the orderly and planned development of our towns and cities.



Shri J.P. Bhargava, Past President ITPI chairing Workshop-I on Emerging Town and Country Planning Processes.

Workshop – IV on 'Development Control Regulations and Bye-Laws' was chaired by Dr. A.N. Sachithanandan, the Past President, ITPI. In this session presentations were made by the key speakers namely Shri K. Thomas Poulouse, former Chief Town Planner, Kerala; Shri Joseph Alexander, former Senior Town Planner, Government of Kerala; Shri C.K. Thomas, former Chief Town Planner, Government of Kerala; Ms. Elizabeth Philip, former Chief town Planner, Government of Kerala; Epan Varughese Chief Town Planner, Government, of Kerala; Shri P.V.



Workshop IV is in progress which was chaired by Dr. A.N. Sachithanadan, Past President of the ITPI, present on the dias are Shri K. Thomas Poullose, Former Chief Town Planner, Kerala; Shri P.V. Kaladharan, Chairman KRC; and Shri Epan Varughese, Chief Town Planner Kerala (from left to right)

Kaladharan, Chairman Kerala Regional Chapter and Ms. May Mathew, Town Planner, GCDA. While Promod Behara and Shri Gigi George were the rapporteurs.

Shri Aniyam Mathew Vice-President, ITPI, chaired the drafting session.

While delivering the Valedictory Address on 10th January, 2007; Shri M. Ramachandran, Secretary (UD) Ministry of Urban Development stated that the theme of the Congress on Reforms in Urban and Regional Planning Legislations is timely in view of the large scale urban reforms contemplated under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission or JNNURM launched on 3rd December, 2005; by the Government of India. He also stated that at the instance of Ministry of Urban Development, ITPI has prepared Urban Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (UDPFI) Guidelines in 1996, which included Model Urban and Regional Planning and Development Law. It was expected that the State Governments will amend their respective laws in line with the Model Urban and Regional Planning and Development Law but the progress in this regard is not satisfactory. Since the Model Law has been prepared as a follow up of the provisions of 74th

Constitution Amendment Act, it would be advisable that State Governments amend their Town and Country Planning Acts in conformity with the Model Law, he stressed.

The planning process should be dynamic enough to take care of changing socio-economic conditions in urban areas, technological advancements, environmental and conservation needs in the country. There is a need to develop cities in an inclusive manner to take care of all the sections of the society. Public participation in urban planning process is minimal as public objections and suggestions are invited only after the plans are prepared. This process should be other way round. There is an urgent need to look at the entire process of master plan preparation so as to make it more participative, more reflective of the varied requirements of city specific situations.

The state level urban development strategy including urban land policy should be prepared so as to channel the urbanization process for judicious and optimal use of urban land. All new developments in the form of SEZs, IT or BPO townships, Hi-Tech cities, industrial growth centers, industrial parks, etc. should be located as per the provisions of state urbanization policies. We cannot have islands of

excellence and a situation where these types of new initiatives pose a challenge to the already over burdened urban systems.

As per the provisions of 74th Constitution Amendment Act, the planning and development functions are to be devolved to Urban Local Bodies, which are also the state level mandatory reforms under JNNURM. As such creation of city development authorities may be contrary to the provisions of 74th Constitution Amendment Act. State level urban development authorities may be more relevant and suited for development of new areas.

There has been remarkable change in the urban scenario during the past few decades in India. Proportion of urban population has increased from 17 percent in 1951 to nearly 30 percent at present. This trend is likely to continue in future also due to rapid industrialization, economic development, etc. At present, India is the second largest urban system in the world. Not only is there a shift from rural to urban areas but within the urban areas, over a period of time, there has been a tendency to shift to metropolitan cities and other larger cities from the smaller cities. Metropolitan cities today account for approximately one third of the country's total urban population. At present, approximately 55 percent to 60 percent of the Gross Domestic Product or GDP and 90 percent of total taxes in India are contributed by the cities.

In respect of Kerala, the settlement system is linear which is unique example of urban-rural continuum. It is one of the thickly populated states in the country. A typical feature of urbanization in Kerala is that urban population has increased marginally by only 7.63 percent during 1991-2001, while the number of towns and cities has gone down from 197 in 1991 to 159 in 2001, perhaps, due to declassification or merger of towns, level of urbanization has also gone



Shri M. Ramachandran, Secretary (UD) Ministry of Urban Development delivering the Valedictory address. Present on the Dias are Shri Pradeep Kapoor, Secretary General, ITPI; Shri D.S. Meshram, President ITPI; Shri S.M. Vijayanand, Principle Secretary, Department of Local Self Government, Kerala; Prof. Mercy Williams, Hon'ble Mayor of Kochi; Shri Aniyam Mathew, Vice President, ITPI; Shri Epan Varughese, Chief Town Planner Kerala; and Shri Gopal Krishna Pillai, Senior Town Planner GCDA.

down slightly from 36.44 percent in 1991 to 25.96 percent in 2001. During 1981-1991, the state has witnessed a significant increase in urban population, with a growth rate of 60.89 percent, which fell drastically during 1991-2001 by registering a growth rate of only 7.68 percent.

Shri M. Ramachandran also underlined that the large-scale urbanization in India has put severe strain on urban infrastructure including water supply, road and transport, sewerage and sanitation, drainage and solid waste management, etc. If momentum of economic growth is to be maintained, challenges thrown up by large-scale urbanization will have to be addressed without any further delay.

To develop Indian cities as world-class cities, a comprehensive programme, viz. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission was launched in December 2005 to cover 63 towns. Under this Mission, the investment in urban areas will be significantly scaled up to meet the growing demands of infrastructure and basic services. Apart from providing investment, the Mission will usher in an era of urban reforms to improve urban governance, quality of service delivery to the citizens and sustainable development of urban

areas to provide impetus to economic growth and improve the quality of life of citizens in urban areas. There are new challenges here for town planners. A massive investment of Rs.100,000 crore over five years period is expected to bring about substantial changes in the quality of urban life. Urban Local Bodies are expected to undertake reforms under the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium towns or UIDSSMT. In Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram and Cochin are covered under the JNNURM and rest of the towns are covered under the UIDSSMT. To implement the vision stated in the CDPs, it will have to be integrated with the requirements of each city. This is a challenge, the details of which have to be worked out.

Government has recently launched the Pooled Finance Development Fund or PFDF Scheme to provide credit enhancement to urban local bodies to access market borrowings based on their credit worthiness through state level pooled finance mechanism. Under this Scheme, PFDF will be set up in the States to ensure availability of required resources to urban local bodies for improving urban infrastructure, service delivery and ultimately to achieve the goal of self-sustainability.

Government has also launched the National Urban Information System or NUIS Scheme to develop GIS databases for 137 towns and cities in the country on two scales i.e. 1:10000 and 1:2000. In addition, utility mapping on 1:1000 scale will also be undertaken for 24 towns. The spatial and attribute database thus generated will be useful for preparation of master plans, town-planning schemes and serve as decision support for e-governance. In Kerala, five towns viz. Alappuzha, Kollam, Kozhikode, Palakkad and Thrissur have been identified for urban mapping and Kochi for utility mapping. Central share of Rs.147.56 lakh has been released for Kerala to the Survey of India, the mapping agency. Once the State share of Rs.49.19 lakh is released, the Survey of India will take up mapping.

To assist urban local bodies to build up their capacity to exercise better financial management and planning process at the city level, the Ministry has initiated a UNDP assisted project in four states including Kerala. Cities of Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Allappay and Palaghat of Kerala have been selected for implementation of the project. This project has been launched on 1st November, 2006; and will be completed by end of 2007.

The Mission Mode Project on e-Governance in municipalities is also being formulated by the Government to improve the efficiency and effectiveness in the interaction between local government and its citizens and also to improve internal government operations to support and simulate good governance. Eight services and management functions of municipalities are proposed to be covered under this scheme. The main beneficiary of the Mission Mode Project on e-Governance in municipalities would be the citizen, who will have easy access to municipal services, hassle-free payment of municipal taxes and user charges, quick redressal of their grievances and also have access to information from municipalities. It is



Award Ceremony for distributing Prof. V.N. Prasad, National Best Thesis Award is in progress under Chairpersonship of Prof. Mercy Williams, Hon'ble Mayor of Kochi in the presence of Shri M. Ramachandran, Secretary (UD) Ministry of Urban Development; Shri S.M. Vijayanand, Principle Secretary, Department of Local Self Governement, Kerala.

proposed to cover 423 Class-I cities with a population of one lakh and above under the Scheme.

He called upon the fraternity of town planners to actively participate in preparation of city development plans and detailed project reports and programmes in accordance with the guidelines of various schemes particularly the JNNURM and stated that he look forward to valued suggestions for smooth implementation of all such schemes.

While distributing the National Best Thesis Award popularly known as Prof. V.N. Prasad Best Thesis Award, Prof. Mercy Williams, Hon'ble Mayor of Kochi stated that organizing the Congress at Cochin is timely because it is in the midst of the preparation of two important documents for its development i.e. (i) City Development Plan which is being prepared under the JNNURM and (ii) Comprehensive Master Plan for the city. Planners play the key role in the preparation of these important documents which not only would provide guidelines for the future development path of the city but also something that will be subjected to the thorough scrutiny by the people not just today but tomorrow. These documents will have to stand the test of time. Piecemeal planning and

development will jeopardize the entire planning process of the city, thus unsettling the future of the city itself. Looking at the sorry state of affairs of our cities and towns she lamented that most of our cities grew without meaningful planning interventions to streamline their growth and Cochin is not an exception. She therefore, called on the planners to follow a holistic approach to planning having environment, people and culture as its central focus with strong value of equity at the base.

Quoting the example of UK, which she visited recently, she remarked that planning in the UK is a collective effort of all experts from different disciplines and they do have constant communication with the community in matters of planning. Introduction of people's planning programme in 1996 in Kerala is a classical example of the bottom up approach in planning. This could have revolutionized our planning concepts and efforts but unfortunately issues of management and politics could not be addressed in the right earnest. She hoped that, this is the right time to address these issues with renewed vigor, which will give proper shape to our cities in the context of space and time.

On the issue of the 74th Constitution Amendment Act, which gives powers

and functions to local governments, including the function of social planning, she hoped that things will improve now with local governments having a clear vision on micro level strategies and working hand in hand with national and state governments. She further emphasized three key areas i.e. Finance, Function and Functionaries. Government of Kerala gives around 40 percent of the state budget for local government. But at the same time gives some functions as well like provision of schools, hospital, etc. She hoped that government would also give total control over planning to local bodies as well. Now the third point is functionaries. Along with functions government needs to give functionaries like planners, for the preparation of our Master Plans and City Development Plans. Town and country planners would need to perform a proactive role in bridging the gap if there is any between these two instruments to make our urban and rural areas a better place to live.

On yet another important issue she asked should we make compromise on illegal construction and unauthorized developments. It is a matter of public policy. Development is not just a planning strategy; it is the outcome of a political decision. It is upto the planners to provide a metropolitan planning strategy but it is for the state to accept it in principle, it right or wrong to compromise with unauthorized developments when there are violations of building rules and development plan reservations of critical road links and critical areas. Is it right or wrong permitting encroachments on low-lying areas, which are important for draining out storm water? Should we confiscate excess built up area for public purposes such as housing the disadvantaged people? Are we willing to charge development charge on users who have encroached upon prime land. She therefore recommended that development control regulations must be framed, and local bodies should be

given discretionary powers to enforce them or relax the provisions in genuine cases.

Shri S.M. Vijayanand, Principle Secretary Department of Local Self Government, Kerala who was the Guest of Honor in his address mentioned that application of sound town planning principles is not only important for urban areas but also equally important for rural areas. He also stated that for creating DPCs under 74th Constitution Amendment Act, Kerala state is forerunner. As far as devolution of powers to local bodies is concerned, there is a need of capacity building in local bodies so that they can perform the functions assigned to them efficiently and effectively. Participation of the people is essential not only at the stage of preparation of master plans but also at implementation and enforcement stage. At the same time he issued the caution as to who is participating? On the point of mobility, quoting the example of neighborhood level to regional level, he stated that there is a need to provide scope for mobility in the planning. Congratulating the ITPI for organizing the Congress at Kochi, he mentioned that he would be looking forward to receiving the recommendations of the Congress and assured that it will be taken seriously for implementation by the State.

During Valedictory Session Shri Epan Varughese gave the welcome address while Pradeep Kapoor, Secretary General ITPI and Gopal Krisnia Pillai, Senior Town Planner, GCDA extended the vote of thanks.

After detail deliberations and discussions over two days, the Congress made the following recommendations.

Workshop I: Emerging Town and Country Planning Processes

- Under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission or JNNURM, it is mandatory to prepare City Development Plans

or CDPs, the emphasis of which appears to be more on infrastructure development. However, as the mega projects would be funded under the JNNURM it will have deeper impact or implications on the spatial development. Therefore, there is an urgent need to integrate CDPs and Master Plans so that both documents do not act at cross-purposes.

- Urban Development Plan Formulation and Implementation or UDPFI Guidelines, prepared at the behest of the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, taking into consideration provisions of the Constitution's 74th Amendment Act 1992, were circulated by the Ministry to all the States. It, *inter-alia*, recommends to prepare long term Perspective Plan for 20 to 25 years followed by Development Plan of 5 years, Annual Plan for 1 year and Project Plans or Layouts. The CDP under the JNNURM is to be prepared for 7 years. It would be more appropriate that CDPs are prepared in a manner that fits in the hierarchy of the prevailing planning process in the country.
- For all the Class-I cities the preparation of master plans for 20 to 25 years incorporating proposals of CDP, where applicable, should be made mandatory and should be completed by the end of 2007 and the funds for the preparation of such plans should be made available under the JNNURM.
- All legislative reforms both mandatory and optional as per the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission should be incorporated in appropriate laws. It is also recommended that most appropriate areas requiring urban renewal be identified and an Urban Renewal Plan be prepared for this area to be followed by DPRs for its implementation under the JNNURM.

- As the Special Economic Zones are being developed under private sector, through the involvement of government, it would be more appropriate to take steps in advance by making suitable provisions in the prevailing legislation so that areas between adjoining towns and SEZ do not get developed in an unplanned and unauthorized manner creating slum like conditions and encouraging land speculation and encroachments.
- Recently it is observed that large complexes like Knowledge Cities, Cyber Cities, IT Parks, Malls, Multiplexes, Games Villages, etc; are coming up on a large scale. It would, therefore, be advisable to make planning norms and development promotion rules so that the development is planned and it does not result in problems of traffic congestion and hazards to neighborhoods.
- Legislative support to the following needs to be provided as a constitutional obligation:
 - Devolution of Town Planning Functions to the urban local bodies;
 - Constitution of District Planning Committees and Metropolitan Planning Committees with one of the nominated members being a full time Town Planner;
 - Contents of Draft Development Plan of District and Metropolitan Areas should appropriately include spatial planning as given in the 74th Constitution Amendment Act, 1992, articles 243 ZD (3) and 243 ZE (3) respectively.

Workshop II: Making Cities Safer

- For mitigation of natural and manmade disasters in urban setting, appropriate planning and development norms, standards and building byelaws should be evolved for achieving safety in urban centers.

- Legislative support should be provided for making the cities safe, specifically with respect to all kinds of disasters and hazards, and for disabled and elderly people.
- Remote Sensing and GIS can play an important role in making cities safer from natural hazards, man-made hazards, man-induced natural hazards and for crime prevention by identifying hazard-prone areas, mapping hazards, preparation of micro zones for assigning land uses, activities, buildings and population densities. GPS can pin point the exact locations of crimes and disasters.
- With violence and fear of violence assuming alarming proportions, making cities safer should be accorded highest priority on the agenda of all parastatal agencies involved in city planning, development and management.
- With most of the urban problems having their genesis in urban poverty, empowering urban poor should be used as the strategy for leveraging safety in urban centers by creating an enabling environment in which poor are encouraged to find solutions to their problems related to shelter, employment, infrastructure and productivity. Capabilities of the poor should be enhanced so that they become capable of achieving those valuable things that they have reason to cherish. Town planners can considerably influence the creation of safer neighborhoods and communities using the mechanism of properly planned and designed built environments by reducing breeding grounds of crime. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) can be effectively used as a strategy for making cities safer.
- Considering good urban governance and safer cities as reciprocals, promoting good urban governance should be

accorded highest priority and used as a mechanism and strategy for improving urban safety.

Workshop III: Participatory Planning

- Participation in decision making related to urban planning and physical development should become the responsibility of the State Governments and urban local bodies. Clear provisions must be made in the statutes for involving poor people in the decision-making processes.
- Participation in planning should be viewed as capability promoting exercise, particularly of those who have been excluded from decision processes for centuries together. Planners should not only act as technicians, but should advocate the interests of the poor and vulnerable sections of the society.
- Different approaches to participatory planning that ensure effective participation of people and other stakeholders, and make city planning inclusive should be implemented by providing appropriate legal mechanisms.
- The goals of preparation of Draft Development Plan or DDP are to enhance improved urban governance, services and infrastructure. Accordingly, such a plan should include issues of slum improvement, intramunicipal management, environment management and municipal institutional strengthening.
- Participatory planning process should promote the sense of belongingness and involve NGOs, minority groups, media, public and other stakeholders in the process of plan preparation, implementation, monitoring and enforcement.

Workshop IV: Development Control Regulations and Byelaws (Local Sub-theme)

- Planning legislation should give a positive signal to the people and should promote spatio-economic

development. In this context the Development Control Regulations may be termed as Development Promotion Measures.

- Building Byelaws should be very simple and people friendly, and should be written in a language which can be understood by the masses.
- Building rules and land sub-division regulations should be revisited in the light of the Town and Country Planning Bill prepared by the Department of Town and Country Planning of Kerala and this Bill should be extended to all development authorities. FAR should be related to the width of the road and also the size of plot.
- For all the major towns of Kerala, Development Plans should be prepared on a priority in conformity with Town and Country Planning Bill.
- As the car-man ratio has considerably increased in Kerala, it is therefore essential to revise car-parking norms not only for commercial areas but also in residential areas.
- Structural Plan and detailed Town Planning Schemes already sanctioned should be incorporated in the Plan.
- State Government should take all the steps to ensure that urban local bodies get strengthened and they recruit qualified town planners to discharge planning responsibilities, including plan scrutiny and zoning regulations.
- The Model Recruitment Rules prepared by the ITPI should be adopted and only qualified planners should be assigned the job of planning at all vertical and horizontal levels.
- Latest techniques of preparation of plans like Remote Sensing, GIS, GPS, etc; should be made use of.

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS / CONGRESS

- Plan implementation techniques like land pooling, transfer of development rights (TDR), accommodation reservation (AR), being successfully implemented in the other states, should also be included in the Town and Country Planning Bill of Kerala.

General Recommendations

- A Task Force under the Chairmanship of the State Chief Town Planner should be set up in each State to examine the legislative reforms in town planning and other acts in order to suggest appropriate steps for amending the various legislations. The ITPI Regional Chapters should take active part in these exercises. Model Urban and Regional Planning and Development Law and the UDPFI Guidelines include many reforms and will form a useful guide in this direction.
- A Town Planning (Professional Practice) Bill should be drafted to streamline the trade of Town Planning Professional Service under the WTO-GATS.
- For all the towns covered under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, the preparation of Development Plans for 20 to 25 years incorporating proposals of CDP should be made mandatory and should be completed by the end of 2007.
- Like for CDPs, funds for the preparation of Master Plans should be made available under the JNNURM.
- Spatial impact assessment of mega projects should be made mandatory.
- Action be initiated to deploy atleast one qualified town planner in each municipal council / local body.

Sustainable Urbanism

The International Conference to be held during 1st to 3rd April, 2007; on Sustainable Urbanism at Texas A & M University brings together leaders from many segments of society to debate the future of cities. The topic of the conference could not be more timely in view of today's release of the IPCC report on Global Climate Change, and the numerous and growing concerns about the state of the planet's cities, as evidenced by the recent United Nations report 'The State of the World's Cities 2006 / 2007', and World Watch Institute report the 'State of the World 2007: Our Urban Future'.

The conference is organized around the twin themes of Sustainability and Urbanism and their intersection in a rapidly emerging field we call Sustainable Urbanism. The planners, designers, engineers, scientists, architects, government, business, professionals, students, non-profit and citizen activities are invited to attend the Conference.

For further information contact:

Landscape Architect and Urban Planning, Texas A&M University

IFHP Spring Conference

Coastal areas and estuaries have a history of population settlement and

concentration of activities. With the increase in global economy and trade, maritime transport is regaining a key role in the movement of goods and products. This is leading to new developments in port infrastructures and, in several cases, new impulses for historical port cities.

On the other hand, climate change and global warming are becoming major preoccupations, at both the political and human levels. The consequences of environmental threats to coastal and estuary areas can be dramatic if no effective answers are found to these problems in good time: millions of people are in danger of being stranded by the rise in the sea level.

Taking these issues into consideration, the IFHP Spring Conference and MILUnet Closing Event, which will take place in Lisbon from the 8th to 11th May, 2007; will host a special workshop for papers (in English and Portuguese) and second special workshop for papers (English only) to be submitted by young professionals and academics.

For further information contact:

IFHP Conference Department
Email :congress@ifhp.org

NATIONAL WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

Soft Computing: QIP Programme for Planners

The subject of SOFT computing is increasingly being applied in various branches of Engineering, Planning and Social Sciences in order to find realistic solutions for various complexities of problems where classical, conventional mathematical approaches can not be effectively applied. Soft Computing refers to a consortium of computational methodologies. Some of its principal components include fuzzy

Logic (FL), Neural Network (NN) and Genetic Algorithms (GA), all having their roots in Artificial Intelligence (AI), which have recently emerged as powerful tools in solving problems in the area of Transport Engineering and Planning. When engineering and planning solutions are complex and cross disciplinary in nature, SOFT Computing is increasingly becoming potential and powerful means for arriving at optimum solutions to problems with greater degree of efficiency and accuracy.

The Programme is scheduled to be held from 19th to 23rd March, 2007 in the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi.

For further information contact:

Coordinator,
Department of Transport Planning,
School of Planning and Architecture
4-B, I.P. Estate, New Delhi – 110 002
Phone :011-23702376
Fax :011-23702383

Map India 2007

Technologies in Geographic Information System have been evolving rapidly over time. In the initial stages of GIS development, it involved simple tasks such as building a database of points, lines and polygons for solving spatial problems. Today, GIS has become easily accessible to users through the introduction of Web GIS. The present trend in GIS is towards using Data Base Management Systems (DBMS) and fourth generation languages (4 GLS). Also, the geospatial community demands greater compatibility between various hardware and GIS software. Thus, interfaces between GIS, CADD, Remote Sensing, Image Processing, Architectural Graphics, etc; are going to be increasingly easy to create which would lead to convergence of various technologies. Convergence of different technologies is becoming common place with the ever growing interpretability between different technological platforms. The most significant example of convergence is seen in the geospatial industry whereby advances in software development has started a chain reaction in the field of mapping, charting, graphic and photographic arts. This has resulted in acquisition of superb satellite imagery, refined digital maps, high-altitude and orbital data collection, and extensive data analysis techniques, many of which were unavailable some years ago.

The Map World Forum is scheduled to be held from 22nd to 25th January

2007 at Hyderabad, International convention Centre, Hyderabad, India.

For further information contact:

Map World Forum Secretariat
GIS Development Pvt. Ltd
A-145, Sector-63, Noida, UP
Phone :91-120-4260810-822
Fax :91-120-4260823-824
Email :info@mapworldforum.org

DSDS 2007: Delhi Sustainable Development Summit

The all pervasive impact of human activity on the world's natural resource endowments is gradually threatening by the security of human activity itself. The exploitation of the pristine tropical forests or water resources for near term economic benefits is more often than not overwhelmed by the looming losses their destruction brings. Tragically, it is the poor of the world who face the brunt of such losses, even as they themselves receive little benefit from the relentless exploitation of natural resources. The challenge before sustainable development practitioners is thus to align the world's development imperatives with natural resource management in a manner that a balance is restored between human activity and environmental well being.

DSDS 2007 will set out to explore the ways in which the world's natural

resources can inhibit or accelerate the quest for sustainable development, depending on the way they are being managed. Over three days from 22nd to 24th January 2007, and eight sessions, delegates from around the world will present arguments and strategies that will seek to reinforce the importance of natural resources to the sustainable development agenda.

In the 2007 edition of the DSDS, global leaders, thinkers, researchers, and corporate visionaries will join in exploring the natural resource dimensions to sustainable development.

For further information contact:

The Summit Secretariat
The Energy and Resources Institute,
Darbari Seth Bloc, IHC Complex
Lodi road, New Delhi – 110 003
Phone :24682100 and 41504900
Fax :24682144 and 24682145
E-mail :dsds@teri.res.in
Web :www.teriin.org/dsds

Workshop on Problems in Implementation of Development Plans

Ms. Jyotsna Chaubal Deshpande, Chairperson of Institute of Engineers, Pune Local Centre while felicitating Shri D.S. Meshram, President ITPI during the workshop held on 19th January, 2007; at Institute of Engineers, Pune



Shri D.S. Meshram, President ITPI being felicitated by Mrs. Jyotsna Chaubal Deshpande Chairperson, Institute of Engineers, Pune Local Centre; present on the dias are Shri Rajan Kop, Director Department of Town Planning and Valuation, Government of Maharashtra and Shri D.S. Gandhe.

highlighted the problems faced during implementation of development plans. Shri Rajan Kop, Director Town Planning and Valuation, Government of Maharashtra in his address stated that requirement of the funds for implementation of development plans proposals is quiet large and therefore resource mobilization is required to be resorted to. Shri P.T. Hardikar, former Director Town Planning and Valuation Department, Government of Maharashtra stated that due to change of time our planning process also is required to be changed so as to cater to the needs of the people. Shri B.V. Kolhatkar highlighted the issue of congestion due to increasing traffic, and stated that as the road hierarchy is not followed in India, the problem

becomes much more acute. Prof. P.M. Raval underlined the need to have strong political will and also emphasized on taking immediate action to fill the shortage of planners in the country so that they can be deployed at the appropriate levels not only in the government and development authorities but also in the private sector. Shri D.S. Meshram, the chief guest stated that the development plans should be prepared taking into consideration the ground realities and should not be very ambitious. He cited the example of Delhi, where the objectives are to make Delhi world class city and global metropolis, specifically when there is a shortage of infrastructure besides resource crunch and presence of slums.

REGIONAL CHAPTERS NEWS

Tamilnadu Regional Chapter

The Seminar on Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission or JNNURM was organized by Tamilnadu Regional Chapter on 23rd December 2006, which was inaugurated by Shri N. Rangasamy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Puducherry. Underlining the need for relaxation of rules pertaining to construction of buildings along the coast and restriction on height of multi-storied houses, he said that Puducherry was seeing an all round development, including economic upheaval. The city area is growing at a fast pace resulting in the shrinking of agricultural land. To cope up with the situation, the Government had initiated action for providing clean and good drinking water, along with measures for recharge of groundwater by adopting rain water harvesting, in private and government buildings. Moreover, new schemes are being implemented for the management of solid wastes, including compositing of solid wastes into organic manure, etc.

Shri M. Rajamani, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development delivered the special address on the Jawaharlal Nehru National urban

Renewal Mission, the largest initiative ever launched by the government for the development of urban facilities in mission cities. Under the scheme, Rs.11,000 crore have been sanctioned so far. Out of targeted 63 cities, 60 of them have submitted the CDPs under the city development projects for availing the benefits under the scheme. Stressing the need to stop migration from urban to rural areas, Shri Rajamani said that urbanization was taking place in a faster pace, that is, at the rate of 3 percent per annum. Hence, challenges lay ahead on how to cope with these developments and to manage it because cities with poor infrastructure are likely to collapse.

Dr. A.C. Varma, IAS; Shri Mr. A. Anbarasu, IAS, administrators from Government of Puducherry in their address also covered various urban issues. On this occasion Shri. G. Dattatri, former Chief Planner, CMDA; Dr. K.R. Thooyavan, former Chief Planner and Member, CMDA; and Shri J.B. Kshirsagar, Chief Planner, TCPO, Government of India, New Delhi and Shri M. Subash Chandira, Chief Planner and Member CMDA also addressed the gathering.

Andhra Pradesh Regional Chapter

Andhra Pradesh Regional Chapter of the ITPI is organizing South Zone Conference at Vishakhapatnam from 28th to 29th April 2007 on the theme 'Planning Issues in Million Plus Cities in the light of SEZ'.

For further information contact:

Shri B. Purushotham Reddy,
Chairman, A.P. Regional Chapter
House No.1-10-198,
Near Post Office, Begumpet,
Hyderabad – 500 016 (AP)
Mobile :09849009127

Goa Regional Chapter

Goa Regional Chapter of the ITPI is organizing the 38th Regional Science Conference on the theme 'Urbanization, Digital Economy and Environmental Sustainability' from 19th to 21st January 2007 at Seminar Hall of National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Polua, Panaji, Goa in association with Government of Goa and Regional Science Association Kolkatta.

For further information contact:

Shri S.T. Putta Raju,
Organizing Secretary,
c/o Town Planning Department,
2nd Floor, Dempo, Towers Patto,
Panaji - 405001

Haryana Regional Chapter

Haryana Regional Chapter of the ITPI would be organizing regional workshop on the theme 'Counter Magnet Towns: A Reality or Fiction' at the HRM Auditorium, CCS HAU, Hissar on 28th January 2007. Shri Jay Prakash, Member of Parliament, Sirsa, Haryana would be the Chief Guest and Ms. Deepti Umashankar, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Hissar and Shri Vijendra Kumar, IAS, MD of DHBPN would the Guests of Honor.

For further information contact:

Shri Nadim Akhtar,
Secretary, HRC,
Panchkula Bay Site No.59-62, Sec.2

Panchkula, Haryana – 134113.
Phone :0172 2580737

Maharashtra Regional Chapter (Mumbai)

The ITPI's Maharashtra Regional Chapter (Mumbai) would be organizing West Zone Conference on the theme 'Impact of Liberalization on Urban Development' at Pune from 24th to 25th March 2007.

For further information contact:

Shri Milind B. Patil,
Honorary Secretary, MRC (Mumbai)
Plot No.100, Sector -15,
Vivekananda Nagar,
CBD, Belapur, Navi Mumbai.
Phone :022 27576162
Mobile :09322660588

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greater interest in academic and research organizations abroad and in the United Nations.

In 1974 Prof. Rao became the Director of the School and served the institution till 1977. Besides managing the administration and academic activities of the School, he explored the possibilities of further growth of the School, he vigorously made efforts to secure a Deemed to be a University status for the School. He participated in the erstwhile National Building Organization's efforts in promoting economy in building construction and use of alternate building materials. He also participated in the work of the Indian Standards Institution in the formulation of the National Building Code. He also participated in the expert group meetings organized by the UN agencies in housing and related subjects and contributed working papers. He was a member of the Government of India delegation to the first UN Habitat Conference held in Vancouver in 1976. He worked with the

committees set up for drafting recommendations of the Conference.

Important consultancy works carried out by Prof. Rao included Design of the Rajendra Chhatra Nivas, Calcutta – a hostel for 200 students, and design of the foundry building and Agricultural Engineering Building both for IIT, Kharagpur. He was a planning consultant to the Durgapur Development Authority. He was a member of the Durgapur Regional Plan Committee, and was also involved in the preparation of Master Plan for Durgapur and its environs as an expert planning consultant. He became consultant on the planning of Heavy Engineering Corporation Township at Ranchi. He also guided the junior architects in designing the library and administration building of the Viswa Bharati University at Santiniketan.

Prof. Rao joined the United Nations Regional Development Project in Saudi Arabia as the Planning and Housing Expert in 1977. The Project was set up by the United Nations' Department of Technical Cooperation for Development to prepare Master Directive Plans, Execution Plans and Action Plans within the National and Regional Framework as well as the preparation of a National Spatial Strategy for Saudi Arabia. The work included monitoring the consultants' work against clearly defined scope of work for each city and town ensuring best planning and appropriate linkages between the three levels of planning. The national Spatial Strategy and Regional Development framework, as prepared by Prof. Rao was based on the National Five Year Plans of India. The Strategy identified 25 growth centers, determined the location of economic activities to be located in these centers, determined the distribution of population over the national territory and these growth centers, achieve Sedentarisation of Bedouins and the Social and Physical Infrastructure need to support the Strategy. The Government of the

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Nations commended the work.

Alongside the main project, Prof. Rao undertook additional UN assignments and assisted the Department of Architecture and Planning of the University of Leuven in Leuven, Belgium in 1979 in the preparation of one month training programme in housing for officials of developing countries under the Belgium Government Aid, using the resources which the Architecture Department had developed from their experience in North African countries in the field of housing.

He also worked as physical planning expert in 1986 on the assignment to prepare outline proposals for Economic and Physical Development Plan for the Fujaria in the Emirate of UAE. After studying the resources, existing conditions, development potential in each sector, etc; the multi-disciplinary team led by the economic and the physical planner prepared the *Outline Plan* for integrated economic and physical development of the Emirate. Preparation of a detailed *Development Plan* was to follow on the basis of the *Outline Plan*.

Prof. D.V.R. Rao has more than 42 years of experience in teaching, research and development work. He is an intellectual luminary. His inspiration and brilliance as a teacher has been the greatest asset to the School and ITPI. Above all, he is a soft spoken and considerate person. In action he is human and compassionate.

He is now 84. But this has not prevented him from participating in the activities of the Centre for Symbiosis of Technology, Environment and Management or STEM at Bangalore, of which he is a founder member and Director.

Contributed by Shri Abdul Qaiyum, Former Town and Country Planner, TCPO, New Delhi

KNOW YOUR FORMER PRESIDENTS



Professor Devanhalli Venkanna Raghavendra Rao

Professor Devanhalli Venkanna Raghavendra Rao, an engineer, architect and a town planner, is an elder academician *par excellence*. During his long span at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, he produced a large number of urban and regional planners and housing experts to practice spatial planning in India. Prof. D.V.R. Rao felt that it was unique privilege to have the opportunity of serving two premier national centers of architecture and planning education in the country in their formative years.

Prof. Rao is the Fellow of the Institute of Town Planners, India. He served its Council as its member for a number of years, as Secretary General and President during 1972-1973 and 1976-1977 respectively. He took active interest in the activities of the Institute. He is also the Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects, London.

Born on 15th December, 1922 in Bangalore, Professor Rao did his B.Sc. from Central College, University of Mysore, Bangalore, in 1940. He did his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the same University in 1944. He graduated in Architecture from the University of Liverpool,

England, in 1950. He did his Master's Degree in City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania, USA in 1959. He got the J.N. Tata Endowment Scholarship for higher studies in architecture for the period 1945-1950, and was deputed to the United States by the Government of India to study town planning, housing and industrial architecture under the TCM Programme from 1958 to 1959.

After graduating in Civil Engineering in 1944, Prof. Rao joined the then Hindustan Aircraft Factory in the post war Planning Department and worked there for two years. After graduating in architecture in 1950, he spent a year in teaching at the Department of Architecture in the then Delhi Polytechnic. He worked as Assistant Town Planner for Government of Bihar from 1951 to 1952.

He joined the Central Public Works Department or CPWD, New Delhi as Architect in 1952, where the job assignments, among other things, included designing of buildings for the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. This led to his being invited by the Institute to join as Assistant Professor of Architecture and Regional Planning in the newly started Department of Architecture and Regional Planning. While at the CPWD he assisted as the Organizing Secretary of the United Nations Conference on Housing in Delhi (1952), in designing and constructing a 'Village Community Centre Complex' suitable for villagers in India in low cost housing exhibition organized for the Conference.

He joined the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur as Assistant Professor of Architecture and Regional Planning in 1953 to 1963. He became

Professor and Head of the Architecture and Regional Planning Department in 1960.

Alongside teaching at what is now rechristened as the IIT, Roorkee, Prof. Rao participated in the Damodar Valley Regional study started by then head of the department Prof. V.N. Parsad at the behest of the Planning Commission, Government of India. The study which extended over four years, almost corresponding with the second Five Year Plan period, was to analyze the socio-economic and physical characteristics of the Region and relate the vast development programmes taken up by the Damodar Valley corporation (DVC) to a regional development framework.

Prof. Rao joined the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi in 1963 as Professor of Housing and Community Planning. From 1963 to 1966, he functioned as the officiating Director of the School. Taking over the Department of Housing in 1966, Prof. Rao developed the study of housing with academic depth required for a postgraduate programme.

He introduced the novel method of training housing specialists by promoting field practices as a supplement to the traditional classroom teaching at the School. He promoted field practices as means of teaching at the School and undertook extensive field studies with the help of the faculty and students about the growing problems of housing for marginalized communities in Delhi and other cities. The studies were published in the School's journal *Urban and Rural Planning Thought*, and also in international journals such as *EKISTICS*. These studies evoked even

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