



planners newsletter

INSTITUTE OF TOWN PLANNERS, INDIA

4A, Ring Road, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002

No. 5 x 2

RNI - DELENG/2004/12724

April - June 2008

Chairman Editorial Board: **B.Mahendra**

Editor and Secretary Publications: **Dr. Ashok Kumar**

EAST ZONE CONFERENCE

The East Zone Conference of Institute of Town Planners, India was organized in Guwahati on 23rd February, 2008 at Hotel Nakshatra, Guwahati by the North-East Regional Chapter of the ITPI on the theme 'Emerging Challenges in Urban Planning: Issues in Master Plan Implementation'.

While inaugurating the Conference, Mrs. Dolly Bora, Mayor, Guwahati Municipal Corporation, reminded the planning fraternity, the need for sustainable approach to planning of infrastructure including transportation, power, solid waste management, etc. She further stated that for the successful implementation of master plans, plan implementing agencies should obtain the support of various

stakeholders like NGOs, senior citizens, educational institutions, etc. She also highlighted the importance of public participation in planning. On this occasion a colorful Souvenir brought out by the North-East Regional Chapter of the ITPI was also released by her.

Shri Biren Dutta, IAS, Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam, Urban Development Department was the Guest of Honor. In his address, he observed that planners are doing surgical interventions, but these are required to be adopted only when preventive and curative measures fail. He also brought into focus the issue of people friendly planning. Quoting the example of workers, he stated that their habitat needs to be located near their work places so as to reduce the costs of work trips. Administration can not go against the wishes of people; therefore we have to motivate the politicians – the representatives of people to do more. People are also required to be educated and taken into confidence, and they should be motivated to participate in the development programmes. He also called upon the planners community to give constructive suggestions to help the government redraft its Urban Policy and to make master planning process more effective, faster and

IN THIS ISSUE

East Zone Conference	1
ITPI Regional Chapters Activities	2
International Workshops and Congresses	3
National Workshops and Congress	5
Know Your Former Presidents	8

dynamic so as to meet the aspirations of the masses.

In his address, Shri V. Satyanarayan, President, ITPI called upon the planning fraternity to look for innovative mechanism to internalize community participation in urban planning right from preparation of the plan to implementation. He has also stated that urban areas are the engines of prosperity and therefore needs to be harnessed for the well being of the masses.

In his welcome address Shri P.K. Rajkhowa, Chairman, North-East Regional Chapter, ITPI gave a pen picture of the planning initiatives undertaken in Guwahati and stated that Master Plan approach to planned urban development needs to be multi-dimensional, and be used as a tool to synergies a city's development. He also propagated for a rational planning approach having an in built participatory mechanism both at community as well as private sector levels to regulate and promote the growth of our towns and cities.



Mrs. Dolly Bora, Mayor, Guwahati Municipal Corporation giving the inaugural address



Mrs. Dolly Bora, Mayor, Guwahati Municipal Corporation releasing the Souvenir. Present on the dias are Shri B. Mahendra, Vice-President, ITPI; Shri Biren Dutta, IAS, Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam, Urban Development Department; and Shri V. Satyanarayan, President, ITPI (left to right)

Shri S.S. Mathur, Secretary General, ITPI in his remarks outlined the mandate of the ITPI on theme of the Conference and stated that not only plan preparation is important but plan implementation and enforcement is equally important. The Plenary Session was chaired by Shri D.S. Meshram, Past President, ITPI, in which presentations were made by Shri L.N. Sarma, Shri A.M. Karim, Shri A.C. Thakur, Shri S. Santhanam, Shri S.C. Mahagaonkar, Shri S.M. Patnaik, Dr. T. Toshinmanon, Mrs. Anjali Goswami and Shri Dalim Gogoi.

While concluding the session Shri D.S. Meshram noted that the Institute of Town Planners, India is aware of the problems being faced at the

implementation stage by the various agencies and accordingly at the behest of the then Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, Government of India, the ITPI formulated the 'Urban Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (UDPFI) Guidelines', which if followed will go a long way in resolving major problems being faced during the implementation of master plans. He also pointed out that these Guidelines are now being reviewed in consultation with the Ministry of Housing and Poverty Alleviation so as to cater to the concerns of the urban poor.

The vote of thanks was extended by Shri A.C. Thakur, Honorary Secretary, North East Regional Chapter of the ITPI.

found that hardly 4 percent Nagpurians depend on Public Transport System. A majority of people depend on two wheelers which ultimately resulted in rapid growth of two wheelers. Once an efficient transport system is in place, like the MRTS, it is expected to change traffic and transportation scenario of Nagpur, substantially. He also stated that Nagpur Municipal Corporation has undertaken initiatives to prepare Master Plan: Perspective 2031, for Traffic and Transportation for Nagpur City which *inter alia* includes short term improvement proposals for 2008-2009, medium term improvement proposals for 2009-2016, and long term improvement proposals for 2016-2021 / 2031. Long terms proposals include development of Outer Ring Road, Truck Terminal, Development of BRTS / MRTS and sub-urban rail. Population of Nagpur which was 20.5 lakh as per 2001 Census is likely to be 46.7 lakh by 2031 i.e. by 2031 population of Nagpur will be more than double of its present figure. Therefore, there is an urgent need to search for viable alternative, which appears to be the MRTS.

Shri Vijay Phanshikar, Editor, the *Hitavada*, the Guest of Honor in his address stated that the present development planning is not carried out as per the dreams of people of Nagpur. The medians provided for segregation of both carriage ways traffic create more problems than solving and has become accident prone due to change in the alignment of these medians. He also lamented that under Integrated Road Development Plan about 4,000 trees were destroyed. On the issue of reforms agenda under the JNNURM, he stated that there is urgent need to create MPCs or DPCs. Yet another issue he brought into focus was that of the provision of toilets by road sides for ladies which has not been given due consideration in planning, besides hocking zones and sidewalks for

ITPI REGIONAL CHAPTERS ACTIVITIES

Maharashtra Regional Chapter (Nagpur)

Maharashtra Regional Chapter (Nagpur) organized a seminar on 'Nagpur City Traffic: Present and Future Scenario' on 29th March, 2008 at Regional Chapter Building in Nagpur.

While inaugurating the seminar, Chief Guest Shri Sanjay Sethi, Municipal Commissioner, Nagpur Municipal

Corporation highlighted that due to absence of major economic activity, employment opportunities are limited in Nagpur. Even though there exist a good quality network of roads but it has not led to economic development. Lack of dependable Mass Transport System has also discouraged people to use public transport system. As per traffic and transportation surveys carried out for the Nagpur city, it was



Shri Sanjay Sethi, Municipal Commissioner, Nagpur Municipal Corporation releasing Souvenir. Present on the dias are Shri Vijay Phanshikar, Editor, the *Hitavada*; Shri D.S. Meshram, Chairman, All India Board of Town and Country Planning Education, AICTE, HRD; Ashok Waghaye, Chairman MRC (Nagpur); Prof. A.M. Deshmukh, Honorary Secretary, MRC (Nagpur); and Prof. Vijay S. Kapse, Treasurer MRC (Nagpur); (left to right)

pedestrians. Therefore, he called on planning community to take cognizance of all these issues in the right earnest.

Shri D.S. Meshram, Chairman, All India Board of Town and Country Planning Education, AICTE, HRD stated that transportation lines are the life lines of modern cities and need to be kept congestion free. He stated that for traffic and transportation plan to be more effective, it is not only planning but its implementation and enforcement is equally important. He also stated that widening of roads for motorized traffic is important for accommodating increased motorized vehicles but it should not be at the cost of cycle tracks and pedestrian footpaths. We always think in term of mega projects but generally smaller projects are lost sight of. In fact they are more effective at the same time less costly. He also flagged the issue of involvement of stakeholders including people, public bodies, private sector, etc; because there is a clash of interests among various stakeholders. In the mixed traffic scenario of our towns and cities, everybody in spite of riding on fast moving vehicles or slow moving vehicles wants to overtake others rightly or wrongly. He also said that an excellent plan if badly implemented or

not implemented, could lead to chaos. On the issue of constitution of DPCs and MPCs he observed that it is mandatory on the state governments to create these bodies under the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution of India.

Mrs. Pratibha Bujade, Deputy Director, Department of Town Planning and

Valuation, Government of Maharashtra, in her presentation emphasized that transport is the function of land use and in turn land use becomes the function of transport. She also propagated that due to high cost of implementation of MRTS the proposed alignment of ring railway with radial connection is also worth considering.

Shri Ashok Waghaye, Chairman MRC (Nagpur) welcoming the delegates stated that Nagpur city is experiencing rapid growth in traffic since almost a decade and there has been steep rise in the recent years due to MIHAN, Buti-Bori Industrial Estate, SEZ and other IT sector projects. Therefore, *Nagpurians* are ceased with the ever increasing traffic problems.

A vote of thanks was extended by Prof. V.K. Bakde, Coordinator of the Seminar, Prof. A.M. Deshmukh, Honorary Secretary, MRC (Nagpur), and Prof. Vijay S. Kapse, Treasurer MRC (Nagpur).

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS AND CONGRESSES

International Conference on 'Urban Planning, Regional Development and Information Society'

Central European Institute of Technology, (CEIT) – Anlanova, Institute of Urbanism Transport, Environment and Infrastructure Society is jointly organizing a Conference on 'Urban Planning, Regional Development and Information Society' during 19th - 21st May, 2008 at Vienna.

In places where many people come together, information and knowledge is exchanged and new ideas are created. Airports, train stations and motorway rest areas are not only transportation. Many people with different needs and ideas interact and take new ideas into the world; the

reliable functioning of such hubs has to be ensured so that they can foster technical development. Transportation hubs rapidly develop as business centers 'airport cities' are noteworthy examples of this development. REAL CORP 2008 focuses on the mobility hubs of the 21st century and will deliberate on how can the role of transport hubs as innovation hubs be improved, which technologies ensure the reliable functioning of the hubs and where is further improvement needed? How can anticipatory planning ensure the sustainable development of those structures? How can unintentional spatial development be avoided, and how can environmental issues be dealt with?

REAL CORP addresses experts from industry, consulting services, politics and administrations, especially

planners, strategic decision makers, service providers and researchers involved in 'spatial thinking'. The special Workshops will be organized on the following themes:

- AIRCLIP (Achieving Sustainability at Airport);
- Tourist Challenge as a Threat to Current Urbanization; and
- System Dynamics in Urban, Land use and Transportation Planning.

For further information, please contact
CORP – Kompetenzzentrum für Stadtplanung und Regionaletwicklung
Lechergasses 4, 2320 Schwechat, Austria
Phone : +43 1 90360 1241
Fax : +43 1 90360 1299
Email : office@corp.at
Website : www.corp.at

International Conference on 'Urban Development Regeneration and Finance'

The International Conference is being organized by the Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy (CASLE) and the University of Ulster, which will recognize emerging best practices in the development and regeneration of urban and wider regional economies and in the technical support provided by public agencies on the theme 'Urban Development Regeneration and Finance' during 27th-29th August, 2008 at University of Ulster Jordanstown Campus, Northern Ireland. The topics to be discussed in the conference are:

- Urban regeneration;
- Physical planning;
- Communities;
- Social housing;
- Funding and investment strategy;
- Infrastructure;
- Land reforms;
- Registration and computerization;
- Valuation and taxation;

- Information management; and
- Skills training and education.

For further information please contact
CASLE, Administrative Secretary
Email : sspedding@rics.org
cliffdann@aol.com
pt.davis@ulster.ac.uk

International Conference on 'Energy Efficiency and Urban Development'

INTA is organizing international conference on 'Energy Efficiency and Urban Development' during 16th-17th June, 2008 at Madrid.

Urban planners and developers are concerned with energy, primarily through planning transportation, sustainable development, smart growth, environmental protection, economic development, and community quality of life. Planners and developers can encourage efficient energy use and diversification of energy supply through their influence over the built and natural environments, to help communities to reduce fuel. The use of renewable energy in cities requires continuous re-examination and consideration of new experiences to ensure the effectiveness of the changes that are taking place.

In the complex setting of contemporary cities it is important to initiate the debate between the different actors in order to design solutions to the challenge of energy efficiency in urban planning. Accordingly, CEJM and INTA joined their efforts to organize a timely and useful debate on energy efficiency and urban development focusing on two main themes as given below:

- Energy as challenge and opportunity for sustainable urban development; and
- Innovative planning as challenge and solution for sustainable cities.

For further information, please contact:
INTA Secretariat
Toussaintkade 71, 2513, CL. The Hague, The Netherlands
Phone : +31 70 324 4526
Fax : +31 70 328 0727
Email : intainfo@inta-net.org

International Conference on 'Sustainable Development: Issues and Prospectus for the Greater Mekong Sub-region'

The Greater Mekong Sub-region Academic and Research Network (GMSARN) will be organizing the Third GMSARN International Conference 2008 on 'Sustainable Development: Issues and Prospects for the Greater Mekong Sub-region', during 12th-14th November, 2008 at Kunming, China.

The GMSARN International Conference is a multi-disciplinary conference which is mainly a problem based conference with respect to area specific conferences one finds elsewhere. In this aspect GMSARN Conference is unique hosting a wide range of disciplines. The conference aim is to initiate and stimulate international discussion on the various sustainable issues in the GMS, specifically in the areas of energy, environment, natural resource management, and development planning. The Conference will focus on:

- Energy;
- Environment;
- Natural Resource Management; and
- Development Planning.

For further information, please contact:
GMSARN Secretariat
AIT Asian Institute of Technology, P.O. Box 4, Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120, Thailand
Phone : 66 2 5160144, 5245000
Fax : 66 2 516 2126
Email : gmsarn@ait.ac.th
Website : <http://www.gmsarn.org/>

GLOBAL PLANNERS NETWORK SELF-DIAGNOSTIC TOOL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF THE CAPACITY OF PLANNING WORLDWIDE

Background

In 2006, representatives of the planning professions of the world came together at the World Planners' Congress in Vancouver as the 'Global Planners Network'. Their purpose was to promote more inclusive and sustainable settlement planning, and to address the challenges of urbanization, the urbanization of poverty, climate change and natural disasters.

The rapid pace of urban growth makes Increased planning capacity an urgent priority across the world. To assess what the most urgent priorities for increased capacity are, it's necessary first to take stock of existing capacity and then to see where the most serious gaps are for future needs.

To aid this assessment process, the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP) with support from the Lincoln Institute have built a self-diagnostic assessment tool. All those engaged in planning activities can use this tool to examine the capacity for planning in their own country, and to reflect on their individual needs and capacity.

Using the self-diagnostic tool

The tool is available in Chinese, English, French and Spanish at <http://Itinvurl.com/2abffk> or on request in paper format. Technical help also is available online or on request.

It has been designed for all those engaged in planning. Separate versions are provided for professional planning organizations, government ministries and local government, the private sector, NGOs and community-based organizations, and academia.

The tool is designed to take around half an hour to complete, although it may take longer. By working through the proforma, respondents will be able to highlight their achievements, identify future needs and consider the areas where enhanced capacity would bring the greatest benefits.

Outputs from the self-diagnostic tool

Data from the tool will be reported for individual countries / territories on www.GlobalPlannersNetwork.org. Names of individual organizations will not appear. The results site provides a chance to view and comment on other entries and the subsequent analysis of them.

The findings of this project will be presented later in 2008 to the UN Habitat World Urban Forum 4 in Nanjing 'Urbanization, Poverty and Climate Change', and to the Global Planners Network Congress in Zhenjiang 'Spatially Harmonious Cities'.

ITPI Members may respond to this tool on the following address:

Global Planning Capacity RTPI, 41 Botolph Lane, London
EC3R 8DL, U.K.

Phone : +44 0 2079299494

Email : globalplanning@rtpi.org.uk

NATIONAL WORKSHOPS AND CONGRESS

National Seminar on 'Improving the Quality of Urban Life with Special Reference to the Urban Poor'

Urbanization in India is a critical phenomenon with a dynamic impact not only on rural and urban settlements but also on the economy and society. India has the second largest urban system in the world with 329 million people living in urban areas (2007). It is projected that by 2041 more than 50 percent of India's population will be living in urban areas. Urbanization is a catalyst for economic and social change that can result in growth of employment opportunities and improved quality of urban life. The rise in the total number of urban poor in spite of a consistent decline in its proportion to the total urban population is also a matter of serious concern.

There is an increasing interest around the world on issues relating to quality of life in cities. The main factors which make a city livable include economic and employment opportunities, access to basic services, good educational and health facilities, roads and public transport, affordable housing, recreational facilities, and a healthy environment. The said infrastructure and services are vital for improving the quality of life in cities.

Presently, cities in India are marked by a glaring disparity between the lives of the poor and those of the richer sections of society. The poor suffer from lack of employment opportunities, degraded housing, lack of security of tenure and inadequate access to basic services such as water supply, sanitation, health care, education and social security. There is thus a need to examine the various policy issues in the specific context of improving the quality of life in cities. Against this background, the National

Seminar on 'Improving the Quality of Urban Life with Special Reference to the Urban Poor' is being organized by Association of Municipalities and Development Authorities (AMDA), New Delhi in collaboration with Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Housing and Poverty Alleviation, on 2nd-3rd May, 2008 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

The sub-themes of the Seminar are:

- Generation of Urban Employment Opportunities as a means of Poverty Alleviation;
- Development of City Infrastructure, Housing and Basic Services for the Urban Poor in the context of JNNURM;
- Urban and Regional Planning for Sustainable Urban Development;
- Urban Environmental Management; and
- Urban Governance.

For further information, please contact:

Director

Association of Municipalities and Development Authorities (AMDA)

7/6, Sirifort Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110049

Phone : 011-26494486, 26496457, 26497973, 26496837

Fax : 011-26491675

Email : india738@nda.vsnl.net.in

Website : www.amdaindia.org

National Convention on 'Recent Trends in High Rise Buildings'

Migration of people to urban areas has increased tremendously in the recent past. Industrial growth resulting in enhanced employment opportunities, excellent facilities for higher education, research, lucrative career, infrastructure development and social welfare facilities available in towns and cities have acted as powerful magnets to attract rural population. As a result, population densities in towns and cities have increased to a large extent. Further, the increase in land cost and desire of the people to reside near the heart of towns are some of the other

factors which have given rise to construction of high rise buildings. High Rise development has come in vogue not only in mega cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai but also in large towns like Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

Many of the problems can be avoided or at least mitigated by using foresight in planning and development of high rise buildings. Accordingly, Indian Building Congress will be organizing 14th Annual Convention at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 8th-10th May, 2008 on the theme 'Recent Trends in High Rise Buildings' with sub-themes on:

- Planning including Comprehensive Planning of Utilities and safety (other than structural);

- Mechanization in High Rise Construction and Services:

- Water Supply;
- Fire Fighting;
- Sanitation Installations;
- Lighting;
- Electro-Mechanical Services; including BMS and Energy; Efficient Planning, HVAC;
- IT Networking;
- Solid Waste Management;
- Security Systems; and
- Parking Situations including Multiple Basements, etc.

For further information, please contact:

Honorary Secretary
Indian Building Congress

Sector VI, R.K. Puram,
New Delhi-110022

Phone : 011-26169531, 26170197

Fax : 011-26196391

NEW COURSE ON MASTER OF PLANNING (INFRASTRUCTURE) AT GNDU, AMRITSAR, PUNJAB

Presently, specialized courses on Infrastructure Planning are quite popular abroad and similar trends are picking up in India. In fact specialization in Infrastructure Planning will provide trained manpower to various actors involved in infrastructure planning, development and management at the international, national and local levels. These courses have been conceived in a multi-disciplinary mode, integrating various aspects of spatial planning with infrastructure requirements for natural, social and human resource development.

Guru Ramdas School of Planning, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar is starting Master of Planning (Infrastructure) degree course from the Academic Session 2008-2009. The course is of two years (four semesters) duration, for the candidates having qualification of B. Tech (Urban and Regional Planning); B.E. (Civil); B. Architecture; Masters in Geography, Sociology and Economics; OR equivalent. Total intake for the course is 20 including 5 seats reserved for sponsored candidates. Admission shall be based on an entrance test to be organized by the University. The details about the dates of entrance test, etc; can be obtained from the prospectus and website of the University (www.gnduonline.org).

For further information, please contact:

Head, Guru Ramdas School of Planning

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar – 143 005

Phone : 0183 – 2258802-09, 2450601-14

Mobile : 09888517234

Fax : 0183-2258819-20

Email : headplanning@yahoo.com

a center for Urban and Regional Development within the Iraq Planning Board.

Shri Shafi was promoted to the position of Additional Chief Planner in 1975 and Chief Planner in 1978, in Town and Country Planning Organization, Government of India. He also functioned as Member Planning, DDA, where besides giving technical advice also organized the exercise for the MPD 1981-2001. He was a member of New Delhi Municipal Committee (NDMC), and Delhi State Transport Authority.

He guided the preparation of the outline Development Plan for Western Ghats Region, a project entrusted to TCPO by the Planning Commission (1980). He guided and supervised the preparation of a Manual on Norms and Standards for Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Services (1980). Under his guidance, the Madras Metro Transport System Plan was prepared, part of which has already been implemented. He is among the proponents of the positive role of small and medium towns alongwith the big cities in the urban development of the country. He was a member of the Task Force on Eco-Development Plan for Goa, constituted by the Planning Commission (1982).

Shri Shafi took voluntary retirement in January 1983 when he was Chief Planner to join the Makkah Planning Team in Saudi Arabia, as Planning Co-ordinator of an eleven-nation Team assembled to develop a long range Perspective Plan for the Holy City of Makkah and the Haj Region. It was a unique honour for any Indian to be associated in such a key role.

Shri Shafi has deep interest in Delhi's planning and its problems. He was a member of the Malhotra Committee appointed to simplify Delhi's Building Bye-Laws. He appended his note of dissent with the report, since this would, according to him, drastically alter the basic features of the MPD and

would compromise with the "form and fabric" of Delhi. Has written critically about the formulation of the MPD – 2021. In articles written by him on the subject, namely "Bold but not Beautiful", "Capital Punishment", etc; he spoke of the physical deformity of Delhi as result of ill-conceived planning ideas.

He is courageous and bold in speeches and writing and is not a meek supporter of the establishment. However, it was during the period of "National Emergency", circa 1975-77 when Shri Shafi had to take firm professional stand despite the fact that at that time he was a full-fledged Senior Officer, in the Government of India. His magnum opus is "The Un-Making of a City Plan" an article published in the Hindustan Times (June 1976). In a letter that Shri Shafi then addressed to Bhagwan Sahay, who was the first Chairman of the Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC), Delhi, he cited:

"Aankh jo kuch dekhti hey lab pe a'a sakta nahien; Mahve'y heyrat houn key Duniya Kiya sey kiya ho jai gee" Which literally translates "What all my eyes see, I cannot bring to my lips; and wonder, what all is happening to the world around me?"

In this connection, it is to be pointed out that, when the Justice Shah Commission was set up to look into the "happenings" during the Emergency, Shri Shafi was the only Planner asked to testify before the Commission when his letter describing the anguish of a sensitive professional City Planner was read out to the Commission and it forms part of the Commission's official proceedings as part of archives.

But that is not the only instance when, as a professional, Shri Shafi took a stand. At one point of time, there was a proposal to demolish famous Canopy at New Delhi's India Gate under which once stood a Statue of King George V during whose regime New Delhi was developed as the Imperial Capital. Shri Shafi with his friends filed a Public

Interest Litigation (PIL) at the Delhi High Court and the Court stayed the demolition of the India Gate Canopy sans the statue, but the Canopy has been preserved as being an elegant specimen of Colonial architecture.

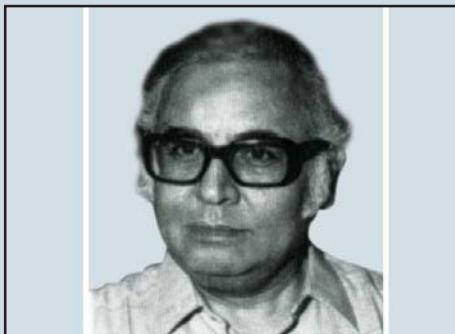
Yet another stand that Planner Shafi took was his protest against " the demolition of Pavilion by the DDA during the Emergency Circa 1975-77 at the rear end of Jama Masjid.

Yet another example of taking a bold stand by Shri Shafi is when some years ago, he moved the Delhi High Court about an illegally built so called Wazu Ghar by the Shahi Imam of Jama Masjid. "In its first hearing, the Delhi High Court ordered its immediate demolition."

In 2006, the Government of India set up a Committee to examine the extent and nature of unauthorised colonies and other illegal structures that have come all over urban Delhi; and to suggest the measures to prevent such illegal and unauthorized developments all over the Capital Territory of Delhi. Chaired by former Lt.Governor, Shri Tejinder Khanna had Shri Shafi as one of its key professional member. The Committee submitted the voluminous report in May 2006.

A full member of the American Institute of City Planners (AICP) and an active Fellow of the Institute of Town Planners, India, Shri Shafi has a patronizing attitude towards the profession and the Institute of Town Planners, India. Shri Shafi has been instrumental in setting up the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and remains to date a member of its Board of Governors. He continues to contribute articles in professional Journals and in all the leading newspapers of Delhi including The Statesman, Times of India, Indian Express and the Hindustan Times.

KNOW YOUR FORMER PRESIDENTS



SAYED SAEED SHAFI

Shri Sayed Saeed Shafi, a bold, outspoken and sensitive professional City Planner of the Independent India, is the Fellow of Institute of Town Planners, India (ITPI), was Member of its Council for a number of years, Secretary General during 1958-59 and twice President – 1977-78 and 1980–81. During the first tenure of his presidentship, he had the privilege of hosting the Sixth Congress of the Eastern Regional Organisation for Planning and Housing (EAROPH) in New Delhi in February 1978 and of celebrating the Silver Jubilee of the Institute of Town Planners, India. The Theme of the EAROPH VI Congress / ITPI Silver Jubilee International Conference was "Towards a Humane Environment: Planning for Human Living."

The Congress / Conference was attended by 300 delegates, coming from 14 countries. Delegates from outside India numbered about 70 who brought with them their first hand experiences of dealing with the problems of Human Settlements in their respective countries.

As part of the Congress / Conference, the Institute of Town Planners, India, organized their Silver Jubilee HBITAT Exhibition which portrayed very effectively the efforts being made in India in regard to planning, housing, and development of self-contained townships.

Shri Sayed Saeed Shafi was born on 5th May, 1930, in Delhi (Shahjahanabad), in a well-known family with deep roots and affiliations with Walled City. He received his early education at the Aligarh Muslim University - School; studied at the College of Engineering at the University (AMU) and graduated in 1950, securing a First Class with "eleven distinctions". Subsequently, Dr. Zakir Hussain, then Vice-Chancellor, sent him to work with Karl M.Heinz, an Architect credited with original design of Jamia Millia Islamia Campus at Okhla. Shri Shafi worked with Heinz on various projects, gaining valuable on-the-site experience.

Shri Shafi joined Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, U.S.A. in 1953 and had the distinction of being instructed by a galaxy of world acclaimed teachers, among them were the legendary Prof. Frederick J. Adams, John T. Howard, Liloyd Rodwin and Keving Lynch; and visiting professors like Sten Rasmussen from Norway; and George Kypesh. At MIT, Shri Shafi wrote his Master's thesis on "A Planning Framework for the National Capital Region in India." He graduated in 1955. In 1960, Shri Shafi was awarded a French Government Scholarship to study Urban Planning and City Renewal Project in France. That enabled Shri Shafi to visit a large number of European cities including several new towns in Europe and the United Kingdom.

After graduation in 1955, Shri Shafi joined the erstwhile Detroit Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission and worked there till middle of August 1956. He returned to India on 15th August, 1956 and on the following day, he joined the erstwhile Town Planning Organisation (TPO) as Associate Planner, set up by the Central Government, at the initiative of the first Prime Minister of

the country, Jawaharlal Nehru, to prepare a Master Plan for Delhi.

The Planning Team at TPO prepared first, the Interim General Plan (IGP) as an interim measure; infact, a planning innovation that came to be deployed by several other cities and towns in India and its neighboring countries. A 2 - Volume draft Master Plan was prepared followed by a final Master Plan for Delhi (1961-81), which was the first Master Plan of its kind in the country and a model for future Master Plans. It was a pioneering work in planned Urban Development.

After the completion of the work on Master Plan, Shri Shafi took over as Town and Country Planner in TCPO after the merger of TPO with CRURO - renamed as TCPO.

Shri Shafi was one of those who developed the concept of the National Capital Region and delineated the metro-region around Delhi and also developed applicability of the concept of "ring towns" and "counter magnets" for the planning of the National Capital and its development in a regional context, that is, the National Capital Region (NCR).

In 1966, Shri Shafi was selected by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to help assist Iraq in appraising and evaluating the master plans being prepared by a team of Polish Planners (Polservices) engaged by the Iraq Government for Baghdad and later for other cities, namely Basra, Mosul, Kirkurk and Suleimaniya.

During his six years of stay in Iraq Shri Shafi helped to set up an Urban Planning Department with the College of Architecture at the University of Baghdad; a full fledged City Planning Department at Amanat-al-Assima (Baghdad's Municipal Authority); and

Continued on page 7