



planners newsletter

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GREEN CITIES: ISSUES AND PROSPECTS

The Workshop on 'Green Cities: Issues and Prospects' was organized by the Haryana Regional Chapter on 5th June 2011 at Mewat, Haryana. Shri Sudhir S. Chauhan, Secretary, HRC welcomed the members while Shri Raj Vir Singh, former Chief Town Planner, Haryana delivered the keynote address, in which he stated that in the Stockholm Conference of United Nations held in 1972, environmental concerns were highlighted through Agenda 21. He further elaborated that the 'Garden City' concept propagated by Sir Ebenezer Howard needs to be revisited in the light of changed scenario. He further stated that

the availability of green space per citizen in the cities and towns should be the hallmark for the city planners.

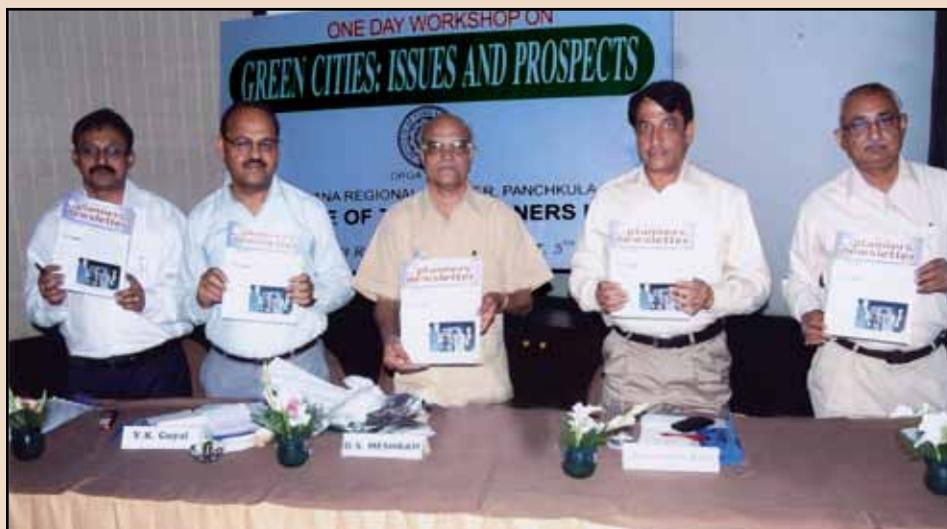
Shri Balraj Singh, Deputy Commissioner Mewat, Guest of Honor in his address stated that adopting 'Green City' concept is the need of the hour. He further stated that planet earth is not huge, and is the smallest in planetary system of galaxy, but life exists only on planet earth. Therefore, it is our responsibility not to disturb flora and fauna, without which life may not be possible. Therefore, onus lies on the planners' community to

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keep the balance through planning interventions.

Shri D.S, Meshram, Immediate Past President, ITPI and Chief Guest while giving the inaugural address noted that cities play a major role in overall emission of greenhouse gases leading to global warming and loss of forest cover and biodiversity. Therefore, he argued that planners should adopt the concept of 'Green Cities' with the focus on consumption of fewer resources. Can we not plan the cities, which burn less fossil fuels by reducing trip lengths and time, discouraging personalized trips, and promoting use of environment friendly modes like walking, cycling, etc. and avoiding the trips by adopting latest technological innovations like e-communications? For example one can reduce the trips for shopping by resorting to e-mail, telecommunications, etc.



Newsletter of Haryana Regional Chapter, ITPI is being released

Yet another aspect he pointed out was less consumption of power through 'Green Buildings'. Saving of electricity would indirectly amount to increase in production of electricity and would result in reducing greenhouse gases, because electricity is generated from coal, water, oil and natural gas. In this direction he has also recommended that we should adopt the principle that city size should

not be decided on the basis of area in sq km, but should be decided on how much natural resources it consumes.

The vote of thanks was extended by Shri V.K. Goyal, Chairman, HRC. The Inaugural Session was followed by Technical Sessions and Valedictory Session, which was chaired by Shri Sham Dass Saini, former Chief Town Planner, Haryana.

LEADING LIGHTS OF THE ITPI

ITPI announces the publication of an extremely informative and immensely educative document, entitled "The Leading Lights of ITPI: Their Mission and Profession over the Sixty Years". The title itself reveals the scope of the book: it documents the history of the Institute which spearheaded the modern town planning movement on scientific and artistic principles in the country; appreciates the ideas of the men – the founding father and the presidents over the years as well – who shaped the form and content of the movement - planning of space as distinct from planning of the economy. In absence of such a movement, the alternative was laissez faire growth of cities and towns, resulting in their chaotic and haphazard development, putting at risk the comfort, convenience and health of community living. However, the country was not strange to town planning – Mohanjodaro and Harappa urban civilization and, later, planned development of the cities of Shahjahanabad – the walled city of Delhi (1648) – and Jaipur, laid out and built in an integrated harmonious setting (1728) are good examples.

It is worth noting that the beginning of 1950's marked the start of two types of development processes

simultaneously: while the national Planning Commission initiated the process of economic development through the vehicles of Five Year Plans whose intrinsic concern was GDP growth; ITPI on the other hand, was concerned with the process of planned development of cities and towns – destined to become "vehicles of growth" and bound to grow in number and size in the wake of industrialization and urbanization. ITPI concern being spatial development through physical planning; balanced spatial relationship among the several functional areas of cities and towns – residence, work –place, communication to work-places, open spaces as the lungs for breathing in fresh air; 'city-beautiful' architecturally but functionally efficient also in aspect of space allocations to different functions; preserving the relics of the past; the art and architecture of the ages gone – by. For "a place without old buildings is like a person without memory."

Both types of processes aimed at improving the quality of life – one from economic angle, the other from physical angle; the latter, however, explicitly emphasizing environment, ecology and health aspects of life. Such was ITPI'S vision of development.

The two types of planning process referred to above – economic development planning at the macro- level and spatial planning at the micro-level – are practiced to tackle growth problems at the two levels, but not in a coordinated manner. What is "needed is to integrate the skills of physical design with a trained understanding of the relevant social and economic forces within a single planning agency". The best use of national resources requires that land must be weighted against production, against the export trade, against employment. Town and country planners cannot do this alone. The solution lies in a wider conception of planning: land use control is an essential instrument of town and country planning; and economic development by the economic planner – the two working together.

A structural change in the Planning Commission, aiming at a coordinated functioning of the two types of planning was suggested by the Regional Planning Sub-Committee of the Housing and Regional Planning Panel (1955) of the Planning Commission, which found that the Planning Commission does not do broad coordination of development on the physical plane in view of the large number of national and regional factors. The Sub-Committee recommended setting up of a Central Advisory Board for Town and Regional Planning by a statute, which would be assisted by a Division of Town and Regional Planning in the Planning Commission. The Board would provide the necessary authority to the work of the technical Division in the Planning Commission. The Board would set up a Regional Planning Body in inter-state regions to conduct regional surveys, prepare regional plans and superintend their implementation.

Besides the need for coordinated functioning of the two types of planning, mentioned in the above para, the need to take into account an inter-regional allocation of resources in over all national planning for a balanced regional development and planning of city or large urban centre in the regional context for a balanced urban – rural region to provide stable and diverse employment has been long recognized.

Though a number of elaborate regional plans were prepared in the country by a Central Government Organisation only in an advisory or recommendatory capacity“ Regional planning in this way will contribute nothing to development” this is so because there is no regional planning organization to study the spatial development of the country, formulate regional policies, prepare regional development plans as an integrated part of the national development plan, coordinate the activities of the various departments, supervise the implementation of the regional plans. Absence of such an organization holds out little hope for an effective and successful regional development planning in the country.

ITPI embarked upon holding Seminars/Congresses annually with two motives: firstly to propagate the benefit, the necessity and urgency of planning of cities and towns to the government at different levels – Central, state and local – and to the wider public. The seminars were on diverse subjects related to spatial planning. The second purpose which these seminars served was that the Institute invited public men holding key decision – making positions in government and outside – prime minister, deputy prime minister, governors, chief ministers, ministers holding

urban development and others, intellectuals and academicians – who graced the occasion with their physical presence, and messages, delivered inaugural addresses, gave their piece of mind to the planners as keen observers of developments in the country and outside. They listened to the problems and grievances faced by the planners in their day-to day working, promised their redressal – most – irksome problems was bureaucratic domination over technical personnel and discrimination in pay scale.

Of the dignitaries, special mention is needed of the late Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, Honorary Fellow of the Institute, who honored it with his messages, if not present. His patronage and guidance in town planning had been responsible for progress in this field.

At the 1961-62 Seminar, held at Madras, Dr. A. Lakshamaswamy Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Madras spoke about the role of authority and the role of a town planner. He said that if town planning is to be given the importance that it deserves, it can only be of those in authority will see to it that the town planner gets a free hand to exercise his judgment to plan as he feels proper. A town planner, according to him, must have a dynamic personality, must be able to influence the administration with his enthusiasm and must come forward with bold policies and not compromise with little things just because the administrator is not prepared to accept it.

Since 1952, the Institute has held almost every year, a town planning exhibition in conjunction with the seminar. Shri C. Govinda Nair, President of the Institute during 1963-64 defined the objectives of the town planning exhibition as

two-fold. One, to impart knowledge and educate public opinion and the other, the competitive merit in the display of achievement and effort and scientific knowledge.

In the apportionment of the use of land for different purposes, town planning justifies it by using scientific techniques. This convenes the people of the areas and objectives of the plan and gains public support and cooperation for the success of the town plan. An exhibition, thus, is of value in that it sells the idea for common acceptance through an understanding of the benefits conferred by it.

The Annual General Meeting is an event which marks the end of the term of one Council and the election of a new council for the coming year. It is, therefore, an occasion, when ITPI reviews the achievements and problems faced during the preceding year and formulates policies and programmes for the next year.

Explaining the usefulness of the Annual General Meeting, Shri C.S. Chandrasekhara, Honorary Secretary of the Institute, 1954-57, said “The Annual Meeting (which is held in Delhi) provides an opportunity for town planners in various parts of the country to get together and discuss planning matters mainly at the policy level. In 1956, for example, the meeting discussion centered round the “participation of town planners in national development”.

The Institute prepared, from time to time, special reports basic to the subject of town planning: basic planning standards for new development or redevelopment of an existing urban area to check further deterioration and unhealthy growth; land use planning regulations and control – land being the ultimate platform of human

activity; town planning functions at Central, state and local levels, etc.

Two points discussed in Section Two of this Volume require mention here. The proposal to set up a Central ministry of town and country planning at Patna Seminar needs to be revived, albeit in a modified form, such as the Housing Panel's recommendation, referred to earlier, on strong grounds of socially justifiable considerations in land allocation among various sectors of the national economy "to control and consider the execution of a National Policy with respect to all the activities affecting use of land to its best". Of late, some new issues, but nevertheless relevant in land acquisition – which is related to the proposed use of land after acquisition – are being discussed. The Central Ministry may oversee the issue just as the Ministry of Forests and Environment examines new projects on environmental considerations. On land use and land acquisition, two reports – Fazlur Rehman Committee on Urban Land Policy (1965) and Anand Narain Mulla Committee on the Land Acquisition Review (1970) are relevant even to-day; the latter recommended "to provide for a statutory device for preventing acquisition of good agricultural land and acquisition of excessive land."

The other issue is related to the disciplines which should rightfully form part of planning education system – stressed at different Seminars / Congresses, such as at Patna in 1956 by Shri Fayazuddin and at Indore Congress by Dr. Sachithanandan in 2004, who said that "the myth that urban planning is rooted in physical planning has gone through a full circle." It is perhaps not so; this point is one of the 5 point Agenda for reform of the planning education system.

As for the fulfillment of the objectives, the Institute stood for, the achievements can be rated at a pretty high level. One area of great success is the field of planning education. There was a great leap forward in the number of schools of planning and number of students turn – outs over the first 50 years. Time changed and with this its demands and requirements are different. It required a re-orientation of the planning education system. The Institute has rightly, initiated a proposal to this end. It has prepared a 5 point agenda of reform in the old model, stressing among other things, the need for an improvement in the quality of the faculty.

The changed economic milieu economic liberalization in the country and globalization of the economy and tremendous changes in the communication technology – also required a change in the planning law, a change in the paradigms of town planning. Reforms in the planning law system was a subject of discussion in one of the annual Congresses.

The Institute had, at a very early stage—at Bhopal Seminar in 1962 – suggested the need, at a policy level, for a change in the country's urban system which shall built at development of small and medium towns. A Task Force was appointed, which produced the report 'Planning and Development of Small and Medium Towns and Cities' which was followed by the IDSMT Scheme.

The Institute's initiatives for the preparation of Master Plan for Delhi, which served as a prototype of master plans for other cities in the country is a landmark achievement in the annals of town planning in India. The other achievements are documented here.

The document on 'The Leading Lights of ITPI: Their Mission and profession over the Sixty years' is organized into three main sections.

Section One discusses the genesis of the Institute, its efforts and achievements; devoted to the memory of persons who laid the foundations of town planning in the country – the founding fathers, the leading lights, who has professional schooling in 'Videsh ' but never became alien to the 'desi ' customs and tradition. Their selfless devotion and commitment to the cause of the profession earned recognition not only to them but status for the Institute. The planned towns and cities of to-day are tribute to them.

The Institute's efforts in the fields of planning legislation, planning education, and setting up planning organizations stand up prominently and laid a firm foundation for invigorating the planning profession and promoting planned development of cities and towns on a sound basis.

Research and development being an essential part of any scientific institution to – day, the Institute took a great step forward and established the Centre for Research, Documentation & Training (CRDT) in 1986, and formed a 15 member Research Advisory Committee (RAC) to promote and serve town and country planning profession through meaningful research, efficient documentation and relevant training. The Institute through the CRDT, organized and coordinated the research study. Its research work and publications, namely UDPFI Guidelines has been considered as a good piece of research study.

The ITPI published its first Journal in January 1955; a quarterly publication has since then grown as valuable informative and educative

organ of the Institute. 'Planners' Newsletter', another publication of the Institute, a quarterly pursuit is designed to serve as a window on the functioning of the Institute; a medium to disseminate information pertaining to ideas and experiences in the field of spatial planning and development. Readers Volumes are prepared by subjects experts for use of the candidates appearing in the examination of the Associateship of the Institute of Town Planners, India.

In its desire to establish intellectual contacts with similar professional fraternities outside the country, ITPI reached an understanding with TPI (London), for mutual recognition of each other, this was also calculated to open opportunities to its members to work abroad.

The completion of the Headquarters building in September 1984 was a landmark in the history of the Institute. It provided much needed space for the growing activities of the Institute.

The establishment of Regional Chapter all over India, affiliated to the Institute, was a good move for stimulating activities not only in major urban centers but also in remote parts of the country. Twenty Regional Chapters and two Regional Centers have been set up so far in different parts of the country. Presently, thirteen Regional Chapters have constructed their own buildings and most of them are self-sustaining.

For enhancing the professional activities and ensuring participation of members to the maximum the various Chapters have been grouped into four zones. Each Chapter of the Zone will organize at least one Zonal Conference by rotation, each year, in every quarter of the year.

Section Two describes the significance of Annual Town Planning Seminars / Congresses, Town Planning Exhibitions, and Annual General Meetings of the Institute.

The organization of Town and Country Planning Seminars / Congresses, as an annual feature of ITPI, has been one of its outstanding promotional activities. Out of the 58 Seminars / Congresses held till date, 26 have been chosen for their being basic to the theory and practice to town and country planning. These seminars have been dealt subject wise, besides separately highlighting the salient features of the concerned seminars as a whole.

Since 1952, the Institute has held almost every year a town planning and housing exhibition in conjunction with the annual Congress. These exhibitions have served as factual background to the deliberations of the annual seminars held in principal cities of India and have enabled the public to see the planning and housing developments which were taking place in various cities of the states and the Union territories. The exhibitions and seminars have enabled the Institute to bring together the professional town planners and planning officials engaged in the practice and administration of town and country planning to establish liaison with the general public.

The Annual General Meeting of the Institute (which is held at registered office of ITPI, in Delhi) provides an opportunity for town planners in various parts of the country to get together and discuss planning matters mainly at the policy level. In 1956, for example, the Meeting discussion centered round the "participation of town planners in national development".

Section Three profiles the Presidents over the last sixty years, who played very significant role in giving a town and country planning content to the Five Year Plans, which laid the foundation of urban and regional planning in the country; played prominent role in placing urban and regional planning on sound foundations by establishing schools of planning, colleges of architecture, professional bodies of planners to safeguard and promote their professional interest; played a key role in setting up town planning organization in the states to promote planned urban and regional development in the states. They by dint of their qualifications and experiences and devotion have brought the Institute to the present position.

Read from cover to cover, narrates the history of ideas which went into the shaping of the modern town planning in the country, in one handy volume what is documented in thousands of pages in the printed records not easily accessible / available, brings to light every relevant information about the Institute. It helps to connect up the elder planning fraternity to their past days at the Institute, to their intellectual encounters with their fellow professionals at the Institute and elsewhere at other venues.

To the young town planners this reader would acquire them with the genesis of their profession. It is of particular value to the student town planners as a basic reader about the Institute. In addition, it serves as ready reference for certain information about the Institute and the persons who presided over it.

Shri Abdul Qaiyum, worked on the document assiduously and therefore needs the appreciation of the hard work put by him.

Names, qualifications and designations of the Presidents at the time of their Presidency

S.No.	Name and Qualification	Year	Designation
1.	 Shri M. Fayazuddin F.R.I. B.A., F.I.I.A, F.I.T.P.	1952-53 1953-54 1957-58	Chief Town Planner, Local Self Government, Hyderabad (Deccan); Chief Town Planner and Director, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad
2	 Shri S.K. Joglekar F.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., F.I.T.P.	1954-55 1959-60	Chief Architect and Town Planner, C.P.W.D., Government of India, New Delhi
3	 Prof. T.J. Manickam B.Sc. B.E., B.Arch (L'Pool), F.R.I.B.A., F.I.T.P., F.R.T.P.I.	1955-56 1960-61 1968-69	Director, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi
4	 Prof. V.N. Prasad F.R.I.B.A., F.I.T.P.	1956-57	Head, Department of Architecture and Regional Planning, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, (Retired as the Director of the Institute)
5	 Shri Walter George F.R.I.B.A., F.I.T.A., F.I.T.P., A.R.C.A.	1958-59	Practicing Architect, New Delhi
6	 Shri C.S. Chandrasekhara B.Sc., B.E., M.C.P. (Harvard), F.R.T.P.I., F.I.T.P.	1961-62 1962-63	Town and Country Planner, CRUPO, Government of India, New Delhi; name changed to TCPO in 1962. He retired as Chief Planner, TCPO and Director, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi
7.	 Shri C.Govindan Nair B.E. (Civil), Dip. T.P. (Edin), F.I.T.P.	1963-64	Joint Director of Town Planning, Government of Madras (now Tamil Nadu)
8	 Shri J.K. Chowdhury F.R.I.B.A., F.R.T.P.I., F.I.I.A., F.I.T.P.	1964-65 1965-66	Consulting Architect and Town Planner, New Delhi
9	 Shri P.C. Khanna B.E. (Civil), T.P. (Durham, U.K.), F.I.T.P.	1966-67 1967-68	Senior Town Planner, Government of Haryana, Chandigarh
10	 Shri N.S. Lamba B.E. (Civil), T.P. (Durham, U.K.) F.I.T.P.	1969-70	Chief Town Planner, Town and Country Planning Department, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh

11		Shri B.D. Kambo N.D. Arch, M.C.P. (M.I.T., USA) F.I.I.A., F.I.T.P.	1970-71	Chief Town Planner and Architectural Advisor, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur
12		Shri H.S. Godbole B.E., M.I.E., A.M.I.E., M.T.P.I. F.I.T.P.	1971-72 (upto Sep. 1971)	Consulting Architect, Town Planning and Engineer, Bombay (now Mumbai)
13.		Shri B.G. Fernandes B. Arch (USA), M.C.P. (USA), M.A.I.P., F.I.T.P.	1971-72 (from Oct 1971)	Chief Town Planner, Design Group, Ministry of Works and Housing, Government of India, New Delhi
14		Shri H.K. Mewada M. Arch, M.Sc (Planning), A.I.I.A.F.I.T.P.	1972-73	Chief Planner and Architectural Advisor, Gandhi Nagar Project, Government of Gujarat and also the Head of the State Town Planning and Valuation Department, Government of Gujarat
15		Dr. K.S. Rame Gowda B.E. (Civil), M.S. (USA), Ph.D (Mysore University) F.I.T.P.	1973-74	Director of Town Planning, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore
16		Shri K.K. Kaplish Dip. T.P. , A.M.T.P.I., F.I.T.P.	1974-75	Joint Director, Directorate of Town and Country Planning, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal (Retired as Director)
17.		Shri Bharpur Singh M.A.(Geog). P.G. Diploma in Regional Planning, F.I.T.P.	1975-76	Chief Co-ordinator and Planner, Environmental Research and Planning and Design Organisation (ERPDO), Ludhiana Urban Project
18		Prof. D.V.R. Rao B.E., B.Arch. M.C.P., A.R.I.B.A., F.I.T.P.	1976-77	Director, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi
19		Shri Sayed S. Shafi B.E. (Civil), M.C.P. (MIT, USA), F.I.T.P.	1977-78 1980-81	Addl. Chief Planner, Chief Planner, Town and Country Planning Organisation, Government of India, New Delhi
20		Shri C.S. Gupte, Dip. Arch, A.I.I.A., A.R.I.B.A. F.I.I.A. Licenstate Member I.T.P.I., M.R.I..T.P. (London), Chartered Town Planner	1978-79	Former Chief Planner, Town and Country Planning Organization, Government of India, New Delhi
21		Shri J.P. Dube N.D. Arch, Dip. T.P. (Durham U.K.), F.I.T.P.	1979-80	Chief Town and Country Planner, Town and Country Planning Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow

22		Shri J.P. Bhargava B. Arch (Hons), M.A. (Planning, Vancouver, British Colombia), F.I.T.P.	1981-82 1982-83 1983-84	Senior Town Planner and Architect (on deputation to NOIDA, Government of Uttar Pradesh undertaking, Chief Town and Country Planner Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow
23		Shri E.F.N. Ribeiro G.D. Arch., T.P. (Manchester), F.I.I.A., F.I.T.P.	1984-85 1997-78 1998-99	Chief Planner; Former Chief Planner, Town and Country Planning Organisation, New Delhi
24		Prof. N.S. Saini B. Arch, Dip. T.C.P. M.U.P. (USA), F.I.T.P	1985-86	Professor of Planning, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi
25		Prof. S.D. Raj B.E. (Civil), Dip. T.C.P. M.S. (USA), F.I.T.P.	1986-87	Director, School of Architecture and Planning, Chennai
26		Shri D.S. Meshram B.A., B. Arch., M.T.C.P. LLB., F.I.T.P.	1987-89 1993-95 1999-01 2002-04 2005-07 2008-10	Chief Planner, Town and Country Planning Organisation, Government of India, New Delhi; Advisor to Government of Utrkhand; Chairman All India Board of Town and Country Planning, AICTE
27.		Shri R.V. Bapat B.Arch; P.G. Dip. in Town Planning	1989-90	Director, Directorate of Town and Country Planning, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal
28		Shri J.S. Ghuman B.E. (Civil), M. Tech (Planning), M.I.E., F.I.T.P.	1990-91	Chief Town Planner, Town and Country Planning Department, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh
29		Shri H.R. Suri B.A. (Hons), B. Arch (Hons), F.I.I.A., F.I.T.P.	1991-92 1992-93 1995-96 1996-97	Consulting Architect and Town Planner, New Delhi
30		Shri A.R. Patharkar B. Arch, M.C.P., Dip. R.D.P. (Netherlands), F.I.T.P.	2001-02	Director, State Town Planning and Evaluation Department, Government of Maharashtra, Pune
31		Prof.(Dr.) A.N. Sachithanandan B. Arch., M.C.P., Ph.D., F.I.I.A., F.I.T.P.	2004-05	Former Chairman, Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning, Anna University, Chennai
32		Shri V. Satyanarayanan Dip. Architecture, P.G. Dip. Housing, M.Sc. (Urban Development Planning) (London), F.I.T.P.	2007-08	Former Director, Town and Country Planning Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad

INTERACTIVE SESSION ON FOREST MANAGEMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Shri Sourav Sen, Secretary, WBRC welcoming the delegates to Interactive Session, said that the workshop on the theme 'Forest Management and Regional Development' is being organized on 9th June 2011, at WBRC, Kolkata, as a follow up of the theme of World Environment Day i.e. 'Forest: Nature at Your Service'. He further added that the workshop would try to accumulate ideas of the experts and participants on how forests could be used positively for regional development without destroying them for immediate gains through short term investments in urban development.

Dr. Souvanic Roy, Chairman, WBRC introduced the theme of the workshop in the context of urbanization in West Bengal, and underlined as to how urban expansion at the periphery into the forest and orchard land is becoming

increasingly a threat to the ecology and environment of the region.

Dr. Somnath Bhattacharyya, Deputy Director (Technical), Institute of Science and Wetland Management, in his presentation on 'Mangrove Forest and Regional Development in the Indian Sundarban: a Management Approach' traced the interrelationship among man with environmental resources and their economic and social security and also highlighted the present conditions of mangrove and biosphere reserve in respect of Indian Sundarban Region. Describing the different threats to the region i.e. changing river position, decrease of estuarine area, effect of sediment deposit, sea level rise and its effect, effect of flood, effect of tidal wave and effect of human activities (embankment and fisheries), he explained how the affected regions are identified with the help of GIS modeling and

possible solutions to strengthen the regional development e.g. retreat embankment, reduce tidal flow and capacity building of the local people.

Dr. Pranabesh Sanyal, UGC Emeritus Scientist and visiting faculty of Department of Oceanology, Jadavpur University, in his presentation on 'Forest Management and Regional Development: A Case Study of North Bengal', describing the scenario of North Bengal in respect of forest management and regional development. Highlighting the existing condition of forest and its habitats and how different factor affect them, underlined the scope of forest management in case of North Bengal and also suggested some possible immediate solutions to increase eco-tourism for increasing the socio-economic conditions of the local community. He also recommended some measures to protect the forest and its extinct habitats e.g. control canopy opening, control poaching, and control forest fire.

Prof. Ajay Kumar Roy, Vice Chancellor, Bengal Engineering and Science University, the Chief Guest of the Session, emphasized that environmental studies are very important and town planners, should dwell on the environmental aspects in detail in development plans.

The Interactive Session was followed up by Plantations of Bakul Tree by the Vice Chancellor, Bengal Engineering and Science University and the Chief Guest of the Workshop Prof. Ajay Kumar Roy, within the premises of the ITPI, WBRC.

At the end of the Session the vote of thanks were given by Sri Arabinda Debnath, Convenor, Workshop Sub-Committee of WBRC.



Plantation of Bakul Tree by the Vice Chancellor, Bengal Engineering and Science University is in progress

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Delhi Regional Chapter, ITPI celebrated World Environment Day – 2011 on 24th June 2011 at Conference Hall of ITPI, New Delhi. On this occasion, a Workshop on 'Environmental Issues and Challenges in Urban Development' was also organized.

Shri S.B. Khodankar, Chairman, DRC, while introducing the subject highlighted that in September 2008, the United Nations launched a collaborative initiative on 'Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)' in developing countries. The UN-REDD Program assists developing countries prepare and implement national REDD+ strategies and builds on convening power and expertise of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). The Program currently has 29 partner countries spanning Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America. REDD+ is seen as one of the most cost-effective ways of stabilizing the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to avoid a temperature rise of two degrees Celsius. But standing forests also conserve carbon while supporting the livelihoods of a large number of indigenous people and forest-dependent communities as well providing essential ecosystem services such as habitat for biodiversity and provisioning clean water supplies.

Dr. S.P. Bansal, Additional Commissioner (Planning), DDA, in his presentation highlighted the issue of standards, manuals,

guidelines on environmental aspects related to urban development, specifically with reference to the projects being sanctioned outside the municipal limits. He also pointed out the need to review the issue of assigning the function of planning and development to the private sector declaring them as special planning authorities, for developing integrated township.

Shri A.K. Jain, former Commissioner, DDA, also emphasized that the integrated township being developed under private sector needs to be made inclusive and sustainable, because the development of such projects have both positive and negative impacts.

Prof. Meenakshi Dhote, Head, Department of Environmental Planning, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi presented the case study of Mount Abu – Ecological Sensitive Area. She stated that development controls and regulations need to be made more stringent so that natural and man made environment could be preserved.

Shri Sumit Sharma, Fellow TERI, underlined the need of pro-active planning and use of the materials which consume less resources and cause less damage to environment.

Shri D.S. Meshram, Immediate Past President, stated that the World Environment Day (WED) chose this year's theme on 'Forest: Nature at Your Service' in order to encourage forest conservation and sustainable consumption for green growth, and in support of the UN International Year of Forests Initiative. Preserving forests throughout the World has to

be in our collective consciousness so as to change our lifestyles.

As per UNEP forest occupies one-third of earth's land mass but support 80 percent of the terrestrial bio-diversity that live on them and 1.6 billion people depend on forest areas for their livelihood and play a key role in our battle against climate change by releasing oxygen into the atmosphere and storing or consuming carbon dioxide and are the green lungs of the earth. But we are destroying the forests at alarming rate – every year 13 million hectare of forests are destroyed. This causes a grim situation to the people who are depending on forest for their livelihood and are struggling for their survival. He also emphasized that investments in forestry generates million of jobs. Therefore, we have to resort to sustainable use of forests before it becomes too late.

Major sources of degradation of forests are commercial logs, frequent fires and cutting trees for fuel, which needs to be addressed seriously as forests provide many important natural resources, such as timber, fuel, rubber, paper and medicinal plants. Forests also help sustain the quality and availability of freshwater supplies. More than three quarters of world's accessible freshwater comes from forest catchments. Water quality declines with decreases in forest condition and cover, and natural hazards such as floods, landslides, and soil erosion have larger impacts. While concluding his address Shri Meshram, stated that, while preparing regional development plans, these aspects need to be taken into consideration.

At the end of the Session, a vote of thanks was extended by Shri Pares K. Dhuria, Secretary, DRC.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON DESIGN AND PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE HABITATS

In the urbanized world, cities contribute a major share of the economy. In a fast growing country like India, which has the second largest population, with limited resources, the challenges to sustain this growth are unlimited.

It is recognized that spatial design and planning along with transparent governance practices has a major role to play in meeting most of the challenges and sustained growth. Keeping in view the triple bottom line approach of sustainable development and Millennium Development Goals, the centre for Sustainable Habitat at HSMI is conducting a two day National Seminar during of 15th – 16th July 2011 on 'Design and Planning for Sustainable Habitat' to incorporate sustainability principles. The objectives of the National Seminar are - to present options for incorporating sustainability principles in design and planning practice; to identify gaps in capacity building at Local and State level and launch the Center for Sustainable Habitat at National and International level; and to share experiences of HUDCO, in Design and Planning alternatives for sustainable and inclusive growth of the cities. The seminar would focus on four sub-themes:

Planning and Designing for Reducing Ecological Footprint

The ecological footprint of a city is the surface area required to supply a city with food and other resources and to absorb its wastes. There is need to provide accessible, safe and low energy options in transport, and reduce dependence on automobiles. The session would focus on landuse models that reduce the ecological footprint in cities.

Planning and Designing for Green Habitats

A sustainable city would have water and sanitation access to all. Green systems based on the principles of reduce, reuse and recycle would also contribute to reduction of overall pollution load in cities. Session would look at urban designs that provide options to incorporate green buildings concept to reduce the carbon footprint.

Good Urban Governance of Economic Sustainability

Cities need to improve governance and city management practices to deliver better municipal services. The session will encourage discussion on these tools for

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the Ambala city and cantonment; held the office of Divisional Town Planner, Amritsar from 1962 to 1970; he had many prestigious projects to his credit, namely Draft Master Plan for Amritsar, 5-Year City Development Programme, Amritsar City Centre and Approach Road to Golden Temple, and Jallianwala Bagh National Monument and had the participation of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India; and Development of Mall Road and G.T. Road, Amritsar. In 1970, he became the Senior Town Planner, Chandigarh, in 1972 he became the Chief Town Planner, Town and Country Planning Department, Government of Punjab. During his short period of one and half years as Chief Town Planner, he developed the technique of regional planning in the state of Punjab; to explain the approach, an exhibition was organised at the Institute forum at Simla in 1972; he was also Chief

providing sustainable economic growth of the cities.

Inclusive cities are sustainable cities

Major issues today are to reduce inequality, poverty and exclusion. Cities will, therefore, have to preserve their heterogeneity, and at the same time integrate various social groups seamlessly into their fold. This session will focus on planning for quality healthcare, education, safe environment for citizens of all age groups, women, and differently abled groups.

For further information please contact Centre for Sustainable Habitats Human HSMI, HUDCO, New Delhi
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Co-ordinator and Planner (ERPDO) Urbanisation Project, Ludhiana and the Project had a great success under his guidance and patronage.

Shri Bharpur Singh represented the Punjab state government as a state delegate to EAROPH Conference at Nagoa in 1972. He also attended the International Federation for Housing and Planning Congress (IFHP) at Copenhagen from 9th to 13th September, 1973.

The remarkably progressive professional career of Shri Bharpur Singh was pruned by the tragic hands of destiny at a young age of 45.

As for his personal qualities, he was unassuming, simple and straightforward; commanded respect from his juniors and senior as well; respected not only by his professional colleagues but also alike by the bureaucrats and other experts in related field.

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

KNOW YOUR FORMER PRESIDENTS



SHRI BHARPUR SINGH

Geographer Planner Shri Bharpur Singh, who died in December 1975, at a young age of 45, was visionary urban and regional planner. His career of about 16 years is a living example of wholehearted dedication to the profession of town and country planning. By virtue of his sheer dint of hard and devoted labour he rose to greater heights in the profession. He, especially in the re-organised state of Punjab (1966), was responsible for raising the status of state Town Planning Department. He was also responsible for the creation of a research and design organization, namely Environmental Research, Planning and Design Organization (ERPDO) involving planners, engineers, traffic and transport planners, social scientists for urban studies. He was the founding member of Guru Ram Das Post-Graduate School of Planning in Guru Nanak Dev University at Amritsar.

Shri Bharpur Singh was the Fellow of the Institute of Town Planners, India, its Council member for four years, Chairman of the Punjab Regional Chapter thrice and the President of the Institute during 1975-76.

The Annual Town and Country Planning Seminar (1975-76)

on 'Human Settlements and Environment Planning' was held in Bombay during the month of December 1975 on the request of the Bombay Regional Chapter of the Institute.

Due to sudden death of the President, Shri Bharpur Singh, on the eve of the commencement of the Seminar – hearing the sad news the Seminar adjourned one of the working sessions after observing two minutes silence – the presidential address was presented by the Vice-President, Shri J.P. Dube.

The Seminar was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Chavan. Shri S.B. Chavan acknowledged that environmental deterioration, especially in our urban settlements, has certainly acquired dimension which we can no longer afford to neglect. He appreciated the decision of the Institute to focus its attention on human settlements and environment planning. Further, he said that rapidly increasing urban population and its relative concentration in large cities and metropolitan centres has been one of the reasons for the serious deterioration in the quality of living conditions in urban areas. The strain as a result of slums, overcrowding and insanitation, growing backlogs and shortages of civic amenities and public utilities are being increasingly felt.

Concluding his address, Hon'ble Shri S.B. Chavan said that "the environmental quality of our cities and towns, of our villages and hamlets is largely dependent upon the stage of economic development

that we can achieve. Comprehensive planning at the national, regional and urban levels is the only answer to control environmental aspects without affecting economic growth. Man through his intensive desire to survive can adopt himself to any kind of environment congenial or harsh but being the masters and creators of our own environments we would rather prefer to change the environment rather than the man, for the long range question is not so much the sort of environment we want, but the sort of man we want."

Shri Bharpur Singh was born on 30th January, 1930 in village Gujjarwal in Ludhiana district. He did his matriculation from his village school in 1945; joined Government College, Ludhiana, graduated in 1949; did his Masters in Geography- securing first position in the University. Joined G.G.N. Khalsa College as lecturer in Geography. He joined the first ever course in Masters in Town and Country Planning in India at IIT Kharagpur.

After graduation in Regional Planning (1958), he served on the Damodar Valley Regional Planning Project, a study started at the behest of Planning Commission, under the guidance of Prof. V.N. Prasad, Head of the Department of Architecture and Regional Planning, IIT, Kharagpur.

He joined the Punjab government provincial Town Planning Organisation at Patiala in 1959, held the independent office of Assistant Town Planner, Ambala in 1960 and was the first officer to evolve the comprehensive plan for

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