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58th NATIONAL TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNERS' CONGRESS: INCLUSIVE PLANNING FOR EMPOWERING THE URBAN POOR

The 58th National Town and Country Planners' Congress was organized during 4th – 6th January 2010 at Hotel Tuli International, Nagpur on the theme - 'Inclusive Planning for Empowering the Urban Poor' with sub-themes on (i) Access to Shelter, Livelihood Opportunities and Infrastructure (ii) Institutional Mechanisms and Planning Processes (iii) Mobilization of Resources for the Poor (iv) Slum Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Initiatives.

Dr. Nitin Raut, Hon'ble Minister, Government of Maharashtra in his

inaugural address stated that the venue of the 58th National Congress at Nagpur has unique political, social and religious importance, and is also centrally located in the heart of the country. Earlier Nagpur was the capital of the Central Provinces and Berar State and presently is the second capital of the Maharashtra. All the distances in the country in all directions are measured from Nagpur city from Zero Mile. Besides this unique geographical feature, Nagpur also has distinct flora and fauna. Due to all these aspects major industries and offices are

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attracted to Nagpur including large projects like MIHAN, International Cargo Hub, etc. As per a report by the United Nations Organization, Nagpur is the second fastest growing city in Asia and is also included in the top ten cities of India. Dr. Raut further added that he is very happy to note that the 58th National Congress is being held for the first time in Nagpur.

On the theme of the Congress, Dr. Nitin Raut noted that it is a fact that the urban poor can not afford to pay ever increasing price of a *pucca* house. The urban poor can not even think of buying land near to their work place due to high market prices. They therefore settle on marginal lands near their work places. But in these areas, there is severe lack of amenities such as potable water supplies, sanitation services and garbage management system. This makes the urban poor live in unsanitary conditions. Dr. Nitin Raut emphasized that growth of slums is the manifestation of the inability of the state to provide affordable land and shelter to the urban poor, and also a failure of government machinery to regulate



Dr. Nitin Raut, Hon'ble Minister, Government of Maharashtra, lighting the Inaugural Lamp. Present are Dr. S.N. Pathan, Vice-Chancellor, Nagpur University; Shri D.S. Meshram, President; and Shri Pradeep Kapoor, Secretary General; (on his left); and Prof. Vijay Kapse, Chairman, MRC (Nagpur); and Shri Aniyam Mathew, Vice-President (on his right)



Dr. Nitin Raut, Hon'ble Minister, Government of Maharashtra, delivering the inaugural address

urban resources in such a way that the poor could get equitable access to land and shelter.

Tracing the historical background, Dr. Raut narrated a story from the British era. He pointed out that during those days separate shelter arrangements were generally made for household servants and employees. But in a democratic India while planning areas and colonies, such arrangements are generally not made due to which the urban poor who migrate for livelihood purposes from rural areas to urban areas have no option but to reside in squatters and slums. At the end of Tenth Five Year Plan housing shortage is estimated to be 24.7 million most of which pertains to low income groups and economically weaker sections of our society. He maintained that in our country urban areas are also characterized by severe shortage of basic services like potable water, well laid out drainage systems, sewerage networks, electricity, roads and appropriate solid waste disposal systems, etc.

Here it would be pertinent to note that housing sector has contributed 4.5 percent to India's Gross Domestic Product in 2003 – 2004. Contribution of housing to the GDP in urban areas was 3.13 percent. It is significant to note that about 16 percent of the Indian workforce is engaged in

construction and transport sectors, yet the estimated housing shortage of 24.7 million for 67.4 million households which is also 99 percent of housing shortage related to economically weaker sections and lower income groups remains unmet. According to the Technical Group set up for the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the total housing requirement including backlog is 26.53 million units for 75.01 million households. The task is colossal and therefore the National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy – 2007 appropriately aims at accelerating the pace of development of housing and related infrastructure, creating adequate housing stock both on rental and ownership basis with special emphasis on improving the affordability of the vulnerable and economically weaker sections of our society.

In this direction the National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy – 2007 aims at encouraging state governments, urban local bodies, and development authorities to update their master plans, zonal development plans and also to adequately provide for housing and basic services for the urban poor, besides promoting balanced urban – rural development by following regional planning approach. In this direction Dr. Nitin Raut was happy to note that the discussions and deliberations of the National Congress would focus on

'Inclusive Planning for Empowering the Urban Poor' because enablement of the urban poor is vital to securing the housing and habitat rights of the urban poor.

Hon'ble Minister also called on town and country planners to recognize the significant contribution being made by the urban poor to economic development of our cities. He thus argued that provision of services to people particularly those who are marginalized and vulnerable becomes critical. They are the ones who need social and economic empowerment. Therefore, they need to be included in the mainstream of development by providing them access to shelter, employment and basic infrastructure especially in view of the fact that 50 percent of India's population is likely to live in urban areas by 2041. What is required is holistic approach for obtaining social equity, sustainable development through involvement of all stakeholders including the urban poor, marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society. Keeping in view the current practices, emerging trends and institutional frameworks and mechanisms, inclusive urban planning policies will have to be urgently framed and implemented by tilting the balance of such policies in favor of urban poor.

Considering the growth potential of Nagpur especially with the arrival of MIHAN and International Cargo Hub, these pull factors will attract more and more skilled and unskilled manpower resulting in increased requirement of housing and related infrastructure for all but particularly for the urban poor. Therefore, Hon'ble Minister called on the planners to engage themselves in the planning and development of Nagpur by adopting the latest technologies and innovative planning practices being followed in other parts of the country. He also underlined and brought into focus the objectives of the National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy – 2007 'affordable housing for all including urban poor and vulnerable



Dr. Nitin Raut, Hon'ble Minister, Government of Maharashtra, releasing the colourful souvenir. Present on the dias are Dr. S.N. Pathan, Vice-Chancellor, Nagpur University; Shri Pradeep Kapoor, Secretary General; (on his right) and Shri D.S. Meshram, President; Shri Aniyam Mathew, Vice-President; and Prof. Vijay Kapse, Chairman, MRC (Nagpur); (on his left)

sections of the society' and invited the planning community to give workable and implementable suggestions so that those could be made guiding principles for developers and policy makers.

Dr. Nitin Raut also mentioned that in our country, slum dwellers have distinct set of problems – personal as well as social. To resolve many of those problems, the onus lies on planning community. They must therefore address the issues and problems being faced by squatter and slum dwellers through the instrument of master plans. He also lamented problems of slum dwellers and urban poor are deliberated in air conditioned chambers in Mumbai and Delhi instead of discussing them in the mist of slum dwellers so that their priorities, problems and concerns are better understood and resolved through planning interventions.

As urban planning provides spatial dimension to economic and social development, it is necessary that it becomes more inclusive, localized, participatory and pro-poor. Dr. Raut contended that inclusive development implies access to all for jobs, shelter, services and social infrastructure. Therefore, urban poor must be invited to participate in planning and development processes, specifically

when India is keen to decentralize urban planning processes through 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendment Acts, which in fact has brought the people to the center of planning. The concern of urban poor particularly informal sector workers and street vendors further require attention with reference to access to shelter and infrastructure so that the same gets incorporated in spatial development plans. Hon'ble Minister also desired to receive the recommendations of the 58th National Town and Country Planners' Congress for consideration of the Government of Maharashtra. On this occasion a

colorful souvenir was also released by Dr. Nitin Raut, Hon'ble Minister, Government of Maharashtra.

Dr. Raut also presented the Medallion to Shri D.S. Meshram, President, ITPI for his contribution and services to planning profession / education and institute.

Dr. S.N. Pathan, Vice-Chancellor of Rasthrasant Tukdoji Maharaj, Nagpur University, and Guest of Honor at the Congress, in his address stated that 25 percent of the people who constitute urban poor live in squatters and slum areas of our towns and cities. He said that slumification of our cities would increase further as more than 50 percent population of the country would be living in urban areas by 2041. Therefore, he emphasized that there is a need of balanced development of urban and rural areas. At the same time he issued caution that due to population explosion, shortage of potable water will be further acute because it is already in short supply. In addition scarcity of water will further aggravate the situation due to excessive use of water in urban areas, which ultimately will result in non-availability of water for agricultural purposes. Besides, as more and more land is brought under urban use, shortage of land for agricultural purposes will become more scare in the



Inaugural session in progress. Present on the Dias are Shri D.S. Meshram, President; Dr. Nitin Raut, Hon'ble Minister, Government of Maharashtra; Dr. S.N. Pathan, Vice-Chancellor, Nagpur University; and Shri Pradeep Kapoor, Secretary General; (from right to left)



Shri D.S. Meshram, President ITPI addressing the Congress during the Inaugural Session.

times to come. He was also of the opinion that there is a need to define and limit city boundaries in case we desire not to experience shortage of food. He also lamented that our cities are becoming jungles of concrete, steel and cement due to which vegetation is just vanishing from the cityscape. Therefore, he suggested that we should provide green belts around cities on the pattern of garden cities and also make it compulsory to prepare Arboriculture Plans along with Master Plans for all towns and cities.

Welcoming Dr. Nitin Raut, Hon'ble Minister, Government of Maharashtra to the National Town and Country Planners' Congress, Shri D.S. Meshram, President ITPI stated that the Congress in essence provides important forum to promote understanding on critical planning subjects, and ensures continual debate on current issues. This is the time when experiences gained by professionals, educationists and researchers are shared with a view to keeping planning practices and education revitalized with the latest theories, techniques and technologies.

Shri D.S. Meshram, President ITPI, noted that both central and state governments have extended their liberal support for organization of the Congress. The main sponsor for the Congress is the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India.

The Congress is cosponsored by Government of Maharashtra in collaboration with Town Planning and Valuation Department, Government of Maharashtra; Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority; City and Industrial Development Corporation; Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation; Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority; Nagpur Municipal Corporation; Nagpur Improvement Trust; Delhi Development Authority; and the Emaar MGF.

Providing a historical backdrop, Shri D.S. Meshram, President ITPI, further added that the Institute of Town Planners, India was started with a small group of 15 town and country planners in 1951. He was happy to note that the ITPI has now grown to more than 3,500 town and country planners. 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 in the ever changing scenario of our towns, cities, and regions, in addition to the advancement of study in town planning, civic design and kindred subjects. The ITPI has its headquarters at New Delhi followed by 21 Regional Chapters in the state capitals and three Centers in Udaipur, Pune and Visakhapatnam.

Placing a firm focus on the theme of the Congress, Shri D.S. Meshram, President ITPI, said that in India there are 80.7 million persons living below the poverty line in urban areas who have generally migrated from rural areas and small towns for the want of gainful employment in industries, construction, trade, commerce, transportation and other services. The magnitude of migratory influx is such that in spite of cities being engines of growth and centers of economic activities, they are unable to meet the basic needs of the urban poor. As a result, the urban poor have limited access to employment opportunities, shelter, health care, education, and recreation. A majority of the poor continue to live in slums and squatters having inadequate basic services and insecure land tenures. Their contribution to economic development of the city and provision of services to its people is significant, but they are marginalized and vulnerable and need social and economic empowerment.

Empowerment could be realized only when the urban poor begin to feel that they not only have stake in the city but are allowed to participate in decision making processes, and are capable of bringing about desired changes in the delivery systems resulting in access to housing and critical infrastructure on their own by having sufficient influence on the decisions of government agencies.

Current relevance of inclusive planning could be assessed by the fact that various ministries of the Government of India are actively engaged in framing policies for the uplift of the urban poor. The Institute of Town Planners, India hopes that by organizing the Fifty Eighth National Town and Country Planners' Congress on the theme of 'Inclusive Urban Planning for Empowering the Poor', the Institute would make significant and distinctive contribution to the ongoing efforts of nation building.



Audience during the 58th National Town and Country Planners Congress held at Hotel Tuli Internation, Nagpur.

In the present planning process, urban poor are generally invited at the implementation stage. But what is required is to involve them not only at implementation stage but also at plan preparation and enforcement stages. Government and urban local bodies need to recognize the fact that urban poor remain one of the major stakeholders in urban planning and development processes. They are capable of determining their own development needs and giving practical and better solutions to problems than what are emerging from the current practices. Therefore, the urban poor are required to be invited to participate in planning and development processes.

According to the National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy, 2007 nearly all housing shortage pertains to the urban poor. Situation is no different for rural housing where most of housing shortage is experienced by the rural landless laborers and families below poverty line. Access to housing and infrastructure are intimately related to access to livelihood opportunities because employment opportunities certainly affect how far a family is successful in having access to housing and critical infrastructure. Location of livelihood opportunities is greatly significant because it would determine to what extent people move from villages to cities. Although people of all

income groups move from villages to cities, this Congress has a specific focus on the urban poor who remain excluded as far as meeting of their basic needs are concerned.

Planning function is delivered by the public and private organizations and at times by forging partnerships between the two forms of agencies. Nowadays non-governmental organizations have been roped in for managing the cities and rural areas. Public, private and the third sector i.e. NGOs and CBOs all have distinct organizational structures, ideologies, responsibilities and they all pursue different policy processes to achieve their objectives and values. Strong institutional mechanisms and efficient urban governance is the backbone of planning, plan making and plan implementation. Institutional mechanisms for planning in the country are currently being reformed. Progress in terms of establishment of new institutions like MPCs and DPCs for the devolution of planning function to elected local representatives as per 74th constitution amendment is very slow and require urgent initiatives to hasten this process.

Whenever one advocates for access to shelter, livelihood opportunities and critical infrastructure for the urban poor, policy makers and town planners respond by saying that there is extreme lack of resources in the public sector. However, Shri Meshram

contended that resources are scarce in all developing countries to a certain extent, but there are some countries, which are better able to redistribute, whatever resources are available, amongst their people. In India we have remained less successful in eliminating galloping inequalities resulting in very poor access of the poor to livelihood opportunities and critical infrastructure. Three situations emerge when policy makers and planners confront the question of lack of resources including developed land. First common response is to seek help of the private sector because it is efficient in delivering infrastructure and shelter. Second and more recent response is to delegate the responsibility to the third sector for certain social services. Third response is to leave the poor to fend for themselves. Shri Meshram said that all these responses are inadequate, and therefore need to be revisited if we are really interested in empowering the urban poor.

Quite a number of good practices for slum rehabilitation and redevelopment are available in country. Maharashtra is one of the leading states in this respect. Initiatives like Dharavi Redevelopment Project at Mumbai and others at Pune, Nagpur and other places need dissemination for their replication by other states so that planning efforts, strategies, and norms are inclusive and their implementation is efficient and user friendly. When India is at a juncture of decentralized urban planning process, new avenues of financial resource generation and high levels of technical capability are needed. This has positive implications for introduction of pro-poor new urban planning and development strategies. In order to address this scenario there is a need to effectuate inclusive and participatory processes of urban planning and development.

Shri D.S. Meshram further stated that he has tried to briefly touch upon some of the important issues, which of course would require detailed



Mrs. Archanatai Dehankar, Hon'ble Mayor, Nagpur Municipal Corporation, Nagpur inaugurating the Exhibition



Mrs. Suneeta Aloni, ADTP, NIT, Nagpur explaining the projects to Mrs. Archanatai Dehankar, Hon'ble Mayor, Nagpur Municipal Corporation, Nagpur



Plenary Session on 'Inclusive Planning for Empowering the Urban Poor' in Progress. Shri J.B. Kshirsagar, Chief Planner, TCPO making the Presentation as a Key Speaker.

examination. He requested all key paper presenters, delegates and rapporteurs of each session to conduct focused discussions and bring out specific recommendations clearly defining the agenda for action so that

the same could be communicated to the concerned agencies for their consideration and adoption.

Shri Aniyam Mathew, Vice President, ITPI read out the messages received

from dignitaries including Shrimati Pratibha Devi Singh Patil, Hon'ble President of India; Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice-President of India; Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, Hon'ble Minister of Urban Development, Government of India; Kumari Selja, Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India; Shrimati Sheila Dikshit, Hon'ble Chief Minister of National Capital Territory of Delhi; Shri Ashok Chavan, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra; Shri Chhagan Bhujbal, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra; Shri Anil Deshmukh, Hon'ble Minister for Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Government of Maharashtra; Shri J.P. Dange, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra; Shri T.C. Benjamin, IAS, Principal Secretary, Urban Development, Government of Maharashtra; and various other prominent persons.

During the Inaugural Session a brief presentation on 'Nagpur Retrospect' was given by Mrs. Suneeta Aloni, ADTP, Nagpur Improvement Trust. While the welcome address was given by Shri Pradeep Kapoor, Secretary General, ITPI and a vote of thanks was given by Prof. Vijay Kapse, Chairman, MRC (Nagpur).

On the Occasion of the 58th National Town and Country Planners' Congress an exhibition on the theme - 'Inclusive Planning and Development' was also organized to provide an opportunity to various stakeholders to showcase their projects and success stories which was inaugurated by Shrimati Archanatai Dehankar, Hon'ble Mayor, Nagpur Municipal Corporation, Nagpur.

The Plenary Session on 'Inclusive Planning for Empowering the Urban Poor' was chaired by Shri D.S. Meshram, former Chief Planner, TCPO and President, ITPI. In this session presentations were made by Shri J.B. Kshirsagar, Chief Planner, TCPO; Shri B.C. Datta, former Chief Regional



Technical Session – I, on 'Access to Shelter, Livelihood Opportunities and Infrastructure' in progress. Prof. Ashok Kumar, Head of Department, Physical Planning, SPA, New Delhi is making the Presentation as a Key Speaker.



Technical Session – II, on 'Institutional Mechanism and Planning Process' is in progress. Prof. Sarup Singh, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar is making the Presentation as a Key Speaker.



Technical Session – III, on 'Mobilization of Resources for the Poor' in progress. Prof. Souvanik Roy, Director School of Ecology, Infrastructure and Human Settlement Management, BES University, Shibpur, West Bengal is making the Presentation as a Key Speaker.

Planner, National Capital Region Planning Board, New Delhi; Shri B.N. Singh, former Director, Association of Municipalities and Development Authorities, New Delhi; and Shri. T.K. Mitra, former Director General, Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority. Shri S.B. Khodankar, Joint Director, DDA New Delhi and Prof. V.K. Bakde,

VNIT, Nagpur were the rapporteurs for this Session.

Technical Session – I, on 'Access to Shelter, Livelihood Opportunities and Infrastructure' was chaired by Shri J.P. Bhargav, former Chief Town Planner, Government of Uttar Pradesh and Past President, ITPI. In this session

presentations were made by the key speakers namely Shri P.M. Apte, Planning Consultant, Mumbai; Dr. S.P. Bansal, Additional Commissioner (Planning), DDA, New Delhi; Prof. Dr. Ashok Kumar, Head, Physical Planning, SPA, New Delhi; Dr. S. Chattopadhyay, Director, Institute of Technology and Marine Engineering, West Bengal; Prof. Alok Ranjan, Department of Architecture, Malviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur; and Prof. Kavas Kapadia, Dean of Studies, SPA, New Delhi. Shri Sunil Mehra, Senior Town Planner, Municipal Corporation Delhi and Prof. C.S. Sabnani, VNIT, Nagpur were the rapporteurs.

Technical Session – II, on 'Institutional Mechanism and Planning Process' was chaired by Shri A.R. Patharkar, former Director, Town Planning, Government of Maharashtra and Past President ITPI. The Key Speakers in this session included Shri M.L. Chotani, Director, Association of Municipalities and Development Authorities, New Delhi; Prof. Shivanandswami, Associate Dean, CEPT University, Ahmedabad; Prof. Sarup Singh, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar; (iv) Prof. P.M. Raval, Department of Town Planning, College of Engineering, Pune; Dr. K.R. Thooyavan, former Chief Town Planner, Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, Chennai; and Dr. V.S. Adane, VNIT, Nagpur. Shri P.K. Behera, Joint Director, DDA, New Delhi and Prof. S.U. Sahasrabudhe were the rapporteurs.

Technical Session – III, on 'Mobilization of Resources for the Poor' was chaired by Shri V. Satyanarayan, former Chief Town Planner, Government of Andhra Pradesh and Past President, ITPI. The key presentations were made by Dr. S.K. Kulshrestha, Founder, Editor SDR, New Delhi; Dr. K.K. Pandey, Center of Urban Studies, IIPA, New Delhi; Shri N.N. Som, Professor, HUDCO Chair, ATI, Kolkata; Prof. Utpal Sharma, Director, School of Planning, CEPT University, Ahmedabad; Prof. Souvanik Roy, Director School of Ecology,



Technical Session – IV on 'Slum Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Initiatives' in progress. Shri. S.D. Landge, Director, Town Planning and Valuation, Government of Maharashtra, Pune is making the Presentation as a Key Speaker.



Technical Session – IV on 'Slum Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Initiatives' in progress. Ms. Swati Meshram, Associate Planner, The Mellegren Planning Group, Florida USA is making the Presentation as a Key Speaker.

Infrastructure and Human Settlement Management, BES University, Shibpur, West Bengal; and Shri Uttam K. Roy, Professor, ATS, West Bengal. Dr. Sandeep Raut, Associate Planner, TCPO, New Delhi and Shri Anil Hore, Consulting Planner, Nagpur were the rapporteurs.

Technical Session – IV on 'Slum Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Initiatives' was chaired by Dr. A.N. Sachithanandan, former Director, School of Architecture and Planning, Anna University, Chennai and Past President, ITPI. In this session presentations were made by the key speakers namely Shri. S.D. Landge, Director, Town Planning and Valuation, Government of Maharashtra, Pune; Ms. Swati Meshram, Associate Planner, The Mellegren Planning Group, Florida USA; Shri G.R. Diwan, former Joint Director, Town Planning and Valuation, Government of Maharashtra, Pune;

Shri Sunil Mehra, Senior Town Planner, Municipal Corporation, New Delhi; Prof. S.A. Deshpande, former Head, Department of Architecture, VNIT, Nagpur; and Prof. P. Mamtha Raj, BMS College of Engineering, Bangalore. Shri R. Srinivas, Associate Planner, TCPO, New Delhi and Mrs. Suneeta Aloni, ADTP, NIT Nagpur were the rapporteurs.

Dr. Gokhale, while delivering the Valedictory address mentioned that, during the Golden Era, India was considered to be the hub of knowledge, wisdom, stability and economic prosperity. However, due to unabated population growth the unemployment in the rural area got shifted to urban areas creating strong rural urban divide. However, he recommended that there is a need to achieve, the rural-urban continuum. Yet another issue he flagged was about vulnerable conditions of urban habitat

and unauthorized growth of slums due to in –migration of the rural migrants to the larger urban areas creating slum conditions with unsatisfactory hygienic and inadequate infrastructure like water supply sanitation and solid waste collection and disposal. He, therefore, advocated that there is a need of Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) as advocated by former President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. In simple terms it envisages "Integrated investment in rural infrastructure through Bharat Nirman Program to unlock the growth potential of rural India". The main idea is to redevelop small towns and villages into social and economical hubs with high density growth. This would ultimately ensure urbanization of rural areas.

Liberalized Economics policies of the Government of India in the past two decades have already started showing some positives effects. In one of the study it was observed that if India could achieve sustained 8% growth trajectory for the next 25 year then it is likely that GDP will be \$20 Trillion from current \$7 Trillion besides 150 million additional jobs will be created and if on the other hand the economic growth is minimal and population growth is unabated then there would be near anarchy in terms of huge number of have-nots.

He has also underlined yet another issue that to ensure better social integration through inclusive planning, World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in 1995 made three simple statements that is everyone has equal rights, everyone can grow with access to service and everyone productively contribute to their full potential. This essentially is empowering the society which in broader terms means developing and internalizing social and life skills and social interests.

During the Valedictory Session held on 5th January 2010, the National Best



National Best Thesis Award – popularly known as Prof. V.N. Parasad Best Thesis Award - Gold Medal being awarded to Ms. Priyanka Kataria, SPA New Delhi by Dr. S. S. Gokhale, Director Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur.



National Best Thesis Award – popularly known as Prof. V.N. Parasad Best Thesis Award - Commendation Certificate being awarded to Ms. Sarika Waghmare from VNIT by Dr. S. S. Gokhale, Director Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur.

Thesis Award – popularly known as Prof. V.N. Prasad Best Thesis Award carrying citation and Gold Medal and cash prize of Rs.5,000 was awarded to Ms. Priyanka Kataria from SPA New Delhi for her thesis on 'Planning for an Integrated Logistic Hub in the NCR Region' and commendation certificates and cash prize of Rs.3,000 each were awarded to Shri Shaikh Ali Ahmed from IDS Mysore for his thesis on 'Planning for Conservation of Heritage Areas in Old-Goa'; and to Ms. Aninderbir Kaur Grewal from GNDU, Amritsar for her thesis on 'Hosing for Urban-Poor – Case study of Amritsar City'; and (iii) Ms. Sarika Waghmare from VNIT,

Nagpur for the thesis on 'Emerging Sprawl Verses New Cities as Anti Sprawl - Case in Nagpur' by Dr. S. S. Gokhale, Director Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur.

Shri D.S. Meshram, President, ITPI in his concluding remarks during the Valedictory Session again emphasized that planning processes must be made inclusive representing critical interests of the urban poor. He pointed out that we prepare development plans and ask people to fall in line and become part of the plan. We must invert this process by bringing the urban poor in the centre of planning processes. He

said that even the best plans will remain poor policy documents if the interests of the urban poor do not get reflected.

Earlier in this session Shri Aniyam Mathew, Vice-President, ITPI read out the recommendations adopted by the Congress. A vote of thanks was given by Shri Pradeep Kapoor, Secretary General, ITPI and welcome address was given by Prof. Vijay Kapse, Chairman, MRC Nagpur.

After detailed discussions and deliberations for two days and participation of more than 350 participants, the following main recommendations emerged from the 58th NTCP Congress:

Inclusive Planning for Empowering the Urban Poor

- Primary causes and issues pertaining to urban poverty are:
 - massive urbanization;
 - mass migration of people from rural to urban areas due to push factors;
 - lack of job opportunities in the urban formal sector;
 - lack of access to shelter and basic services to the urban poor; and
 - exclusion of the urban poor from the mainstream of planning and development processes.
- Government and urban local bodies need to recognize that urban poor are one of the major stakeholders in urban planning and development. Therefore, they need to be not only included but also actively empowered by promoting their involvement in plan preparation, implementation and enforcement levels.
- Planning should be localized, participatory, and pro-poor as this would facilitate empowerment of the marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society. Empowerment of the urban poor

will enhance the overall productivity of the cities.

- Empowerment is multidimensional process encompassing different people, their social structures and social identifies, which need to be established and classified for decision making in respect of planning and fund allocation. Inclusion with accountability and responsibility should be encouraged by making the concerned agencies accountable for their planning and development actions particularly when addressing planning issues related to the urban poor.
- Uncontrolled urbanization taking place in the country needs to be channelized to reduce immigration to larger urban areas, which are becoming unmanageable. It would be pertinent to generate job opportunities in rural areas and small urban areas for poor so that the people are not tempted to migrate to large urban areas in search of job opportunities.
- Recognizing the fact that rural urban migration replaces rural poverty with urban poverty, there has to be a major shift in thinking about urbanization without urban growth by providing good infrastructure for people to reach their work places in towns and cities while they still continue to live in villages.
- Detailed socio-economic and physical surveys of areas where urban poor reside should be undertaken to work out strategies for their improvement and upgradation.
- In order to integrate slums and informal settlements into the urban fabric and to achieve the objective of cities without slums or "Slum Free Cities", major modifications pertaining to norms, standards and planning regulations should be made in master plans to ensure

redistribution of land and housing in favor of the urban poor.

- All centrally or state sponsored schemes of urban development must address the critical needs of the urban poor.
- Provision for pro-poor planning should be made integral in all town planning acts, development authority acts and municipal acts.

Access to Shelter, Livelihood Opportunities and Infrastructure

- Access to livelihood opportunities for the urban poor needs to be improved through measures like sustained infrastructure support to informal sector, encouragement of small enterprises, provision of home based income generating activities, and by creating opportunities for self employment.
- To improve access to shelter, the following measures are recommended:
 - Development plans of towns should adequately and effectively address the housing requirements of all urban poor;
 - Town Planning Schemes and Land Pooling and Plot Reconstitution methods should be applied for making serviced land available for urban poor housing;
 - Development authorities, housing boards, SEZ authorities must ensure that 10 percent to 15 percent of plots or flats are earmarked for service personnel.
 - Whenever land for larger projects like knowledge cities, IT parks, SEZ, MIHAN, Cargo Hub, etc; are being acquired adequate provision not only for re-settlement of displaced land owners be made but land less labour force also be adequately re-settled.

- In the larger projects like MIHAN Cargo hub, SEZ, etc; adequate provision for housing for service population (both formal and informal) be made otherwise they settle on fringe areas, and marginal lands of the near by town or on the abutting areas of these projects creating slums and unplanned / unauthorised developments.
- Commending government initiatives such as Rajiv Avas Yojana, it was recommended that the Scheme should immediately be made operational.
- Low cost building materials and efficient housing designs should be evolved to create affordable housing for the urban poor without compromising on minimum standards.
- There should be greater equity and inclusiveness in the provision of urban infrastructure including safe drinking water, sanitation, and solid waste management. Access to schools, health care and recreation should also be ensured to improve quality of life of the urban poor.

Institutional Mechanism and Planning Process

- In the 'bottom up' planning approach involving the community, the role of planner should not be limited to just facilitating a consensus building exercise but to aid in formulating a larger vision based on the needs of the community. This type of planning should focus on finding the middle ground between 'bottom up' and 'top down' planning process.
- Capacity building of State Housing Boards and Slum Area Boards should be enhanced by adopting innovative approaches of resource mobilization, and by ensuring transparent and effective

administration and project management practices.

- Local level institutions dealing with housing and habitat sector need to be facilitated through effective intermediation by a separate state level institution to provide them guidance, technical support and advisory services.
- Suitable mechanisms such as low interest rate bearing housing loans should be devised to increase access of the urban poor to institutional finance. This may include combination of loan and subsidy on private sector projects in which case, allocation of DUs should be done by the public sector as proposed and practiced in Nagpur.
- Specific, realistic and implementable provisions for catering to the needs of urban poor need to be made specifically in town planning acts, development authority acts and municipal acts.
- Each state government should evolve policies on private sector and joint sector participation highlighting legal support; incentives and inducements; roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in such joint ventures; and support to microfinance institutions for pro-poor micro-financing.
- Integrated database being generated under the NUIS Scheme may be used as the starting point for development of spatial data base across all classes of settlements.

Mobilization of Resources for the Poor

- Shelter fund should be created by each state where 1 percent of the state annual budget should be contributed for the urban poor. It may also have contributions from private developers as per Madhya Pradesh Model which requires a developer to pay at the prescribed rate an amount to this fund if the

builder fails to construct stipulated houses or provide a stipulated percentage of land area for EWS housing. This fund should be used to provide guarantees to financial institutions for extending loans for urban poor housing; seed capital to ULBs; and support to MFIs as security to housing microfinance system.

- TOR for Central Finance Commission should have special mention of funds for the urban poor.
- Potential of transfer of development rights should be fully used to provide suitable housing to the urban poor, but proper safeguards should be taken to avoid misuse of the transfer of development rights.
- Microfinance institutions should be promoted for better access to housing loans for the urban poor. In this connection, promotion of community structures at grassroots level is also essential.
- Financial management reforms at municipal level should be introduced to enable the urban poor to raise more funds through their own sources.
- Fiscal decentralization needs to be ensured to have higher allocation of central and state revenues for inclusive planning of cities and towns in terms of shelter, services and livelihood opportunities.

Slum Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Initiatives

- Two pronged attack including rehabilitation of existing slums by intense use of urban land, and by providing pro-poor housing through land reservations in new sub-divisions need to be pursued.
- Potential of self help and incremental housing for in-situ development of slums should also be used wherever feasible.
- In order to protect the interests of the urban poor, tenure rights over

a house or plot need to be assured so that the owner could use ownership document as a legal tender for raising resources for housing and other economic activities.

- Provision of shelter should be seen as economic proposition by private players to make adequate land for EWS housing and consciously provide for informal sector activities. By using FAR and TDR as a resource and by promoting formation of cooperative societies of slum and squatter clusters, the private sector and slum residents can be engaged in resettlement and self help upgradation programmes. For this, an incentive FAR (up to 50) may be allowed and 10 percent of FAR may be permitted for commercial activity, which could be sold in the market to make the whole scheme self-financing. Relaxation in setbacks and density should be made available for such schemes. In this way, planning regulations can act as a catalyst for providing access to housing and services to economically weaker sections and slum dwellers.
- Provisions of Slum (Improvement and Clearance) Act 1956 are proving to be impediment for taking up slum improvement schemes in notified slum areas. Therefore certain provisions in the Act need re-examination and re-visiting.
- Identification of informal areas and explicit norms for the same is required to be included in master plans rather than ignoring them and leaving it to chance.
- As government's focus is on "Creating Slum Free Cities" in the next five years, the Congress recommends that TCPO and ITPI should play an active role in providing technical inputs for implementing guidelines for Slum Free Cities.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING



The Extra Ordinary General Meeting is in progress. Prof. Utpal Sharma, Director, School of Planning, CEPT University, Ahmdabad expressing his view point. Present on the Dias are Prof. Najamuddin, IIT Roorkee; Shri Pradeep Kapoor, Secretary General; Shri D.S. Meshram, President; and Shri Aniyam Mathew, Vice-President. (Left to right)

The Extraordinary General Meeting of Institute of Town Planners, India was also organized on this occasion, mainly to discuss - widening the basic

qualifications for admission to postgraduate programs in town and country planning along with some other issues. During deliberations it

emerged that there was lack of consensus among members on the issue of basic qualifications. In the meeting some members were of the opinion that currently prescribed basic qualifications include Bachelor of Architecture, Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) and postgraduate degrees in Geography, Economics and Sociology should continue to ensure spatial quality of planning education and practice. While other members argued that basic qualifications for admission to postgraduate programs in town and country planning should be opened up to other disciplines. As the discussions were inconclusive, it was decided that the views of all Corporate Members of ITPI should be obtained by writing individual letters and also by placing information in the ITPI Newsletter. Other issues slated for discussion were deferred for want of time.

Basic Qualifications for Post Graduation in Town and Country Planning: ITPI Solicits Views of the Corporate Members

In the Extra Ordinary Meeting of ITPI held on 5th January, 2010 at Hotel Tuli International, Nagpur, the basic qualifications for Post Graduation in Town and Country Planning were discussed in which 126 members participated. The members who expressed their views were Prof. Ashok Kumar, SPA, New Delhi; Prof. Ashwani Luthra, GNDU, Amritsar; Shri R. Srinivas, TCPO, New Delhi; Shri R.V. Bapat, former Director Town Planning, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal; Shri Monis Khan, TCPO, New Delhi; Prof. Utpal Sharma, Director, CEPT, University, Ahmdabad; Shri Pradeep Kapoor, Deputy Town Planner, Government of Rajasthan; Prof. Shivananadswami, Associate Dean, CEPT University, Ahmdabad; Shri. S.D. Landge, Director, Town Planning and Valuation, Government of Maharashtra; Shri Uttam K. Roy, Professor, ATS, West Bengal; Shri M.L. Chotani, Director, AMDA, New Delhi; Shri R.P. Sachan, Town Planner, Town Planning Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow; Shri Rajesh Chandra Shukla, NCRPB, New Delhi; Shri Harnam Singh Azad, Senior Town Planner, Town Planning Department, Government of Rajasthan; Prof. Alok Ranjan, MNIT, Rajasthan; Shri Naresh Kumar Dhiran, Town and Country Planner, TCPO, New Delhi. It was however, observed that some of the members were of the opinion that the basic qualifications which currently prescribed are – B.Arch; B.E (Civil); Masters in Geography / Economics / Sociology should not be changed because it would amount to dilution of the Town and Country Planning Education. While some of the members were of the opinion that due to opening up of economy, liberalization of industrial policy and globalization trends the basic qualifications prescribed at present for post graduation in town and country planning education needs to be extended to other disciplines.

It was therefore resolved that ITPI would address a letter to all the corporate members of ITPI and obtain their views and also place the information in ITPI Newsletter.

Accordingly, your views are solicited on the following:

1. Do you agree that the existing qualifications prescribed for admission to post graduation in town planning programmes should be changed? : Yes / No
2. If yes, indicate which other subjects should be included in addition to the present subjects.
3. If no, give reasons in support of your opinion.
4. The qualifications for Associateship Examination of ITPI also includes Post Diploma in Town and Country Planning of SV. Government Polytechnic, MP Board of Technical Education, Bhopal and Central Polytechnic, Department of Technical Education Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai. These qualification should be continued or not? : Yes / No (Kindly give reasons)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Map India 2010

Map India 2010, the 13th Annual International Conference and Exhibition on Geospatial Information Technology and Applications is being organized from 19th – 21st January 2010 at Epicentre, Gurgaon by GIS Development in association with the Planning Commission.

Map India 2010 is based on a visionary theme – ‘Defining Geospatial Vision For India’. Attempt is to assimilate the developments within the domain and steer the future direction that geospatial technologies can provide to the various vertical in the country.

The technical programme of the conference will include Plenary Sessions, Symposia, Seminars, Panel Discussions, Round Tables, Technical Sessions and much more that will throw light on the board themes and sectors that hold the key to furthering innovative use of geospatial technologies in order to ensure planned development of the country.

Plenary Sessions:

- Technology Trends
- Connecting Geospatial Communities

Round Tables:

- Public-Private Partnership
- Capacity Building
- National Geospatial Policy
- Evolving Standards and Code of Conduct

Symposia:

- Climate Change and Disaster Management
 - Geospatial Technologies in Climate Change Studies
 - GIS in Disaster Management
 - Panel Discussion: Technology Framework for Climate Change and Disaster Management

- Geospatial for Surface Transport
 - Geospatial for Rail and Road Transportation
 - Geospatial for Coastal Shipping and Inland Water Transport
- Geospatial for Urban Development
 - Geospatial for Urban Planning and Development
 - Geospatial for Urban Infrastructure Management
- Geospatial for Electricity
 - Geospatial for Electricity Generation and Transmission
 - Geospatial for Distribution and R-APDRP

For further information please contact
Map India 2010 Secretariat
GIS Development Pvt. Ltd.
A - 145, Sector - 63 Noida (U.P.)
India - 201 301
Email : info@mapindia.org
Website: www.mapindia.org

CTBUH 2010: Remaking Sustainable Cities in the Vertical Age

CTBUH 2010 is organizing a World Conference on Remaking Sustainable Cities in the Vertical Age on 3rd – 5th February 2010 at Renaissance Hotel and Convention Centre, Mumbai.

Rapid urbanization of developing countries such as India and China over the past decade have resulted in almost 200,000 people migrating from rural to urban regions somewhere on the planet every day (United Nations statistics). This translates into the need for the world to accommodate the equivalent of a new city of one million people every week. How can our existing – or new – urban centers accommodate this growth?

This is not a scenario that is unique to the developing world. Whilst population

growth is more static in many developed countries, immigration and changing social demographics are having a massive impact on countries such as the US and UK. People are living longer, divorce rates have been rising for several decades, the average number of people in households has dropped, and the number of single-people households has risen. In the UK, for example, this results in the need for 200,000 new homes every year for the next ten years in order to cope with demand. Where can these new homes be built?

Whilst these envisaged new cities have an important role to play in the future, in themselves they are not the solution. The rural to urban migration is centered on existing cities, many of which are struggling with the consequential population explosion and the impact on existing infrastructure and patterns of life. Host city for the conference – Mumbai – is a poignant example of the pressures many cities in developing countries face.

Thus the real situation that countries such as India and China face – as well as large parts of the developed world – is not necessarily how to create new sustainable cities where the urban slate is wiped clean, but how to remake existing cities in a sustainable way.

This conference will debate these urban and policy issues, while also considering what role tall buildings and increased urban density will play.

For further information please contact
Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat
Illinois Institute of Technology
S.R. Crown Hall, 3360,
South State Street, Chicago, IL, 60616
Email : lynish@inkbusinessmedia.com
Website: www.ctbuh2010-india.com

Renovative Urban Design: A New Approach to Street Planning and Design

A Joint Seminar is being organized by University College London and Osaka University on 'Renovative Urban Design: A New Approach to Street Planning and Design' during 9th February, 2010

Heretofore, motor vehicles have been given priority on road usage in Japan. However, in Europe and America, beginning with the advent of the first Oil Shock in the 1970's, road space was re-examined with the view of giving more priority to pedestrians, bicycle riders, and public transport systems. Now, in the age of concern for the environment, new movement is taking place. That is, in recent years, in South Korea, Taiwan, and other Asian countries, the ability of people to move about within a city is being given greater weight in urban planning.

In this seminar, Prof. Peter Jones from University College London and Prof. Michiyasu Odani from Kobe University, who are well-known in this field and are specialists in Transportation Urban Planning would be sharing their views on new approaches to the use of road space in developing strategies, plans and designs for urban planning that puts people ahead of motor vehicles.

For further information please contact
Department of Civil Engineering
Email : kajikawa@civil.eng.osaka-u.ac.jp

The 2010 International Conference on Good Governance and Human Rights (CGGHR 2010)

CGGHR is an annual International Conference on Good Governance and Human Rights sponsored by Social Science and Humanities Society of IACSIT, Economics and Business Society, IACSIT and others.

The 2010 International Conference on Good Governance and Human Rights (CGGHR 2010) will be held from 26th - 29th February 2010 in Singapore. The objective of CGGHR 2010 is to provide a platform for researchers, engineers, academicians as well as industrial professionals from all over the world to present their research results and development activities in Good Governance and Human Rights. This conference provides opportunities for the delegates to exchange new ideas and application experiences face to face, to establish business or research relations and to find global partners for future collaboration.

The conference is soliciting state-of-the-art research papers on various areas of interest including:

- Abuses and Derogations to Human Rights;
- Accountability and Transparency;
- Constitutions, Good Governance and Corruption;
- Corruption and Development;
- Good Governance and Human Security;
- Promoting Transparency and Combat Corruption; and
- Promoting Good Governance and Fighting Corruption

For further information please contact
Email : cgghr@vip.163.com

NATIONAL SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Inclusive Urban Governance: Challenges and Opportunities

National Round Table of Civil Society Organizations: Inclusive Urban Governance: Challenges and Opportunities. The Roundtable is scheduled to be held from 28th to 29th January 2010 at PRIA, New Delhi.

This National Round Table is in response to many informal deliberations with a variety of Civil Society Organizations working on the issues of urban governance in India where they expressed the need for coming together.

The specific objectives of the National Round Table are:

- To brainstorm various ways in which urban governance policies, programs and institutions could be influenced from citizens' perspectives;
- To discuss ways to up scale and mainstream civil society innovations addressing urban governance related issues and problems;
- To create institutional platforms of urban stakeholders for regular

dialogues, exchange and communications.

The following Round Tables are proposed for discussion:

- Round Table 1: Deepening devolution of funds, functions and functionaries to urban local governance institutions
- Round Table 2: Institutionalizing citizen participation and social accountability in urban local governance institutions
- Round Table 3: Realizing citizens' rights to basic urban services with special emphasis on urban poor
- Round Table 4: Planning spaces for informal city and addressing urban poverty

For further information please contact
PRIA, 42 Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi -110062
Email : kaustuv@pria.org
Website: www.pria.org

Seminar on Sustainable Lifelines: Transportation Planning and Management

Changing travel needs have changed the transport technologies from road

to rail in at least bigger areas but still the transport requirements of the people are not fully met. Consequently, they have to resort to personal means of transportation. Unprecedented increase in personal automobiles has led to congestion and frequent jams, parking problems, energy and environmental issues, unsafe traffic scene, etc. Due to deficient public transport facilities in towns and cities the travel needs of the urbanites are catered by intermediate public transport system. Ad-hoc planning and management of traffic and transportation aspects has added to the woes of transport scenario of urban areas.

With an intention to strive for sustainable urban transport by taking an account of different planning and management issues and concerns, Guru Ramdas School of Planning, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar in collaboration with Punjab Regional Chapter, ITPI, Chandigarh is organizing National Seminar on Sustainable Lifelines: Transportation Planning and Management on 12th – 13th March, 2010.

The sub-themes of the seminar are:

- Transportation: Problems and issues;
- Land use and Transport integration;
- Inter-Modal Transport Systems;
- Public Transport System;
- Traffic Safety and Environment;
- Intelligent Transport Systems;
- Urban Transport Strategies;
- Urban Transport Management; and
- Urban Transport Policies.

For further information please contact
Guru Ramdas School of Planning
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Email : ashwanilutra1@gmail.com
joharigk@gmail.com

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Chandigarh; Needle Factory for Croz Backert and Saboo; and number of bank buildings in Sector 17 in Chandigarh. Shri Suri Joined Messers Robert Atkinson and Partners, Chartered Architects in London as Architect in August 1961 and worked on the design of 26 storey complex on Horsphery Road, London for local government; Offices at Victoria Street London; and redevelopment of Woolwich Barracks for the Ministry of Defense, Great Britain. He worked with this firm till May 1963. From May 1963 to February 1967, Shri Suri worked as Senior Architect with Messers Tripe and Wakeham, Chartered Architects, London on the design and supervision of Beer Bottling Plant and Warehouse for Mann Crossman and Paulin Limited at White Chapel, London.

On his return from England in 1967, he was appointed as Town Planner (Pool Officer) and attached with Delhi Master Plan Division of Town and Country Planning Organization, Government of India, New Delhi. He worked on the Zonal Development Plans in Delhi. He also designed the New Fruit and Vegetable Market at Azadpur, Delhi.

In February 1968, he joined the Delhi Development Authority as Associate Town Planner and worked on land use applications, development and redevelopment projects; preliminary surveys and planning for the wholesale fruits and vegetables market in Delhi for 22 areas; flatted factory complexes for Motia Khan area, Thomson Road area as well as for Rohtak Road area of Delhi; Planning of the truck terminals at Rohtak Road, G.T. Road, Azadpur, Chandrawal and Mathura Road; Planning and design of central slaughter house (automatic) in an area of 100 acres on Rohtak Road, Delhi; Design of 23 storey office building for the Delhi Development Authority;

Design of police station with staff accommodation for bachelors and families at Daryaganj; and Preliminary design of police headquarters, Parliament Street, New Delhi.

Shri Suri joined the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi in October 1970, as Assistant Professor and was posted in what was then known as the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. He taught planning standards to postgraduate students. In private practice, as partner of Messrs Designers and Planners Bureau, Shri Suri worked from 1972 to 1979 and designed Mauryalok, a sixteen-storied office – cum – shopping complex in Patna for the Patna Regional Development Authority. He prepared a redevelopment plan of Sadar Hospital at Bhagalpur and Medical College Complex along with Food and Drug Testing Laboratory for the Department of Health, Government of Bihar.

He was consultant to a number of cooperative house building societies for the development of land for plotted development as well as for group housing; and designed and supervised a number of schools, bank buildings, commercial offices as well as industrial buildings. He was consultant to the Punjab and Sind Bank, Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Jammu and Kashmir Bank and State Bank of India.

He worked as consultant to the Department of Irrigation and the Electricity Board, Jabalpur for Department of Housing for the staff. Till recently, he was the Chairman of Urban Systems India Private Limited established in 1992, the firm specializes in architecture and planning projects. He is still continually involved in professional planning activities.

Profile prepared by Shri Abdul Qaiyum, Former Town and Country Planner, TCPO, New Delhi, based on information available in the ITPI.

KNOW YOUR FORMER PRESIDENTS



HANWANT RAI SURI

Shri Hanwant Rai Suri, Chairman of Delhi Regional Chapter and Vice – President of the Institute of Town Planners, India for two years (1989-1991) and President of the Institute for four years (1991-1993) and 1995-1997) is a well known architect, town planner and urban designer. Shri Suri also served as the Chairman of Town Planning Examination Board of ITPI for three years (1991-1993 and 1995-1996). He was nominated by the ITPI Council as a representative of the Institute of Town Planners, India for the Jury of the Committee constituted for the Prime Minister's National Award for Excellence in Urban Planning and Design in 1996. Shri Suri served the General Council as well as the Executive Council of the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi from 1991 to 1996) and the All India Council of Technical Education or AICTE in various capacities. He was a member of the Advisory Board (Architecture and Town Planning) of AICTE from 1990 to 1994), member of All India Board of Studies in Architecture and Town Planning of AICTE in 1990-1991, member of the Central Task Force of the AICTE for post graduate Proposals in Engineering Technology, Architecture and Town Planning; member of National Expert Committee for Revision of Salary Scales of Technical Institutions of AICTE, member of Central Vista

Committee, Government of India, New Delhi from 1991-1993 and 1995-1996; Chairman of Town and Country Planning Advisory Board, Government of Madhya Pradesh from 1991-1994. Shri H.R. Suri worked with various government and private organizations and won various prizes. He won the first prize for design of the stadium at Muzaffarpur (MRDA) and the second prize in all India Competition for Department Building for Madhya Pradesh Government (Secretariat); and was commissioned for Design of Vidhan Sabha Building for Bihar Legislative Assembly.

Shri Suri was born on 27th July 1933. He passed his Matriculation Examination in 1949 from Sain Das A.S. Higher Secondary School, Jalandhar and was placed in the first division. He did his B.A. (Honors) in Mathematics in 1955 from the Punjab University; Bachelor of Architecture (Honors) in 1959 from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and Postgraduate Diploma in Town Planning in 1967 from the University College, London. Shri Suri is a Fellow Member of the Indian Institute of Architects (FIIA) and Fellow Member of the Institute of Town Planners, India (FITP).

As President of the Institute of Town Planners, India, Shri Suri obtained the distinctive honor of organizing four Town and Country Planning Seminars at Pune (January 1991-1992) on "Settlements Planning: Concepts and System"; at Goa (February 1993) on "Development and Management of Coastal Area; at new Delhi (January – February 1996) on "Planning for Rural Development; and at Thiruvananthapuram (December 1996) on "Planning and Development of State Capitals".

In Pune Seminar he made the crucial point that each settlement should have a spatial development plan, integrated with the wider regional plan. The recommendation of the Seminar sent for immediate inclusion in the Eighth Five Year Plan then being prepared by the Planning Commission in order to make adequate provisions for regional and settlement development plans.

The Goa Seminar highlighted the economic importance of Indian waters to the country as a treasure of mineral wealth and that of beaches with aesthetic and environmental value. It was recommended, *inter alia*, that the Coastal Zone Management Plans should become integral part of the regional plan of the specific geographic priority urban region.

The New Delhi Seminar was held at a time when elected *panchayats* and urban local bodies were striking deep at roots and the Constitution Amendments (73rd and 74th) were made. The ITPI as Shri Suri informed, examined the provisions of the two amendments and prepared a comprehensive report on the subject. In Thiruvananthapuram Seminar Shri Suri pleaded that all state capitals should be treated as "Special Cities" receiving special funds for their development; and metro-capital regions should form the basis for policy deliberations for effective planning and development of state capitals.

After completing his Bachelor of Architecture in 1959, Shri Suri started his professional career and joined Messrs Chowdhury and Gulzar Singh, an architecture and planning firm located in Delhi in July 1959 and worked their on Nangal Fertilizer Plant at Nangal; Anti-Biotic Factory Complex for Dumex Private Limited at

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