

## OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY

### STRATEGIES AND TOOLS WORKSHOPS Track 4: Sustainable Regional and Urban Planning

#### Session 1: Regional Planning and Urban Growth Management

Session Chair: Mayor Robert Harvey, Waitakere, New Zealand,

Facilitator: Donna Silverberg, DS Consulting, Portland, Oregon

Case Study Presenters:

Nathaniel von Einsiedel, Regional Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific, UNDP/UNCHS Habitat) / World Bank Urban Management Programme, Bangkok, Thailand

Lord Mayor Jim Soorley, Brisbane, Australia

The Honorable Erik Sten, Commissioner, Portland, Oregon

Respondents: I.R. Budihardjo Soekmadi, Vice Governor of Development Affairs, Jakarta, Indonesia

Dr. Li Hong Kai, Director, Shenyang Environmental Protection Foreign Fund Introduction Office, Shenyang City, China

Quality of life and economic productivity in established city areas is greatly affected by new formal and informal development on the urban periphery. When poorly managed, such development can increase the time and resources required for daily transportation, prevent coordinated urban infrastructure development, undermine commercial activities in inner cities and increase economic segregation, crime and other social problems.

Though “urban sprawl” has very different manifestations and impacts in developed and developing country cities, the challenges of guiding and integrating new development on the urban periphery is shared by all fast-growing cities. This session reviewed the urban growth management strategies of two developed country cities and explored the applicability of these approaches to cities in Asia’s developing countries.

Mr. Von Einsiedel began the session with an overview of the state of practice of urban planning in the region. Mr. Soorley followed with a case study of Brisbane, Australia and Mr. Sten followed with a case study of Portland, Oregon.

Highlights from discussion by respondents and audience:

Various members of audience: Globally, cities are experiencing the same problems. The City of Atlanta has enacted strong legislation to curb traffic problems. Permits are required for road excavations. Companies or contractors are required to provide identification on their safety plates. Strong actions are necessary to correct traffic problems.

Land use planning is long term in terms of a leadership point of view. It’s important to have a long-term vision. Mobility and connectivity is fundamental between pieces that make up a city. People are essential and this comes through in studies because it is one thing to have a vision, but you have to be able to instill the vision into a community. I have found that women’s organizations are essential because women, as mothers, help to shape the thinking of the next generation. To make good decisions you need to be knowledge-rich. And look at building capacity in the context of urban developments to

supplement building of urban research facilities in cities. Hard science and soft sciences are important.

In the Philippines, we have used “sharing workshops” as a way to share best practices with other cities. There are three components in successful urban, regional, and national planning: first, expansive general consultation with other regions to validate ideas presented in reports. Second is citizen participation during the planning and implementation stages to assure collective ownership among people. For example, a peoples’ council was created and one of the programs was a public cemetery program for the poor where for a small fee, a poor person can bury a family member in a public cemetery but would have to plant a tree in the mountains. Third is the political will of chief executive to ensure plans are enforced.

Transportation corridors and modes are the most important determinant of where and what kind of development will take place. As an example, Sweden built a transportation system that went out to the country and within 15 years, the surrounding lands became an urban center. It seems what you want a city to be in the future is largely controlled by transportation modes. Controlling transportation infrastructure is important.

Sten: Portland, Oregon has been using System Development Charges (SDC) in restricting and guiding growth by developers. When a developer builds a building, the city will then have to spend more on the overall infrastructure needs that are created by the construction of the building. So the city needs to charge a fee for the additional public works facilities. It has been found that SDC’s work well during a good economy and not so well during a bad economy. The most controversial decision is when do you put incentives and disincentives into a system. Portland has recently decided to exempt affordable housing from SDC’s. So some fees can be avoided when developments are beneficial to the public.

## Session 2: Revitalizing Urban Environmental Amenities

Session Chair: Dato Lakhbir Singh Chahl, Secretary General, CityNet, Yokohama, Japan

Facilitator: Donna Silverberg, DS Consulting, Portland, Oregon

Case Study Presenters:

Xiong Tongshan, Assistant to the Mayor, Fu and Nan Rivers Management Committee, Chengdu, China

Surasak Wichinrotjaral, Bangkuruay, Nonthaburi, Thailand

Respondent: Jeffrey Soule, AICP, Director of Policy, American Planning Association, Washington, D.C

Seung Kyu Kim, Assistant Mayor of Environment, Seoul Metropolitan Government, Korea

Healthy natural landscapes in urban areas add social and economic vitality to inner city life. For this reason, many Asia-Pacific cities have launched “greening” and other campaigns to revitalize their urban environmental amenities. This session focuses on the major revitalization of rivers and natural landscape in two Asian cities that used these efforts as a strategy for inner city redevelopment in the face of rapid urban growth and expansion. Mr. Tongshan presented the case of Chengdu, China and Mr. Wichinrotjaral presented the case of Nonthaburi, Thailand.

Highlights from discussion by respondents and audience:

Member of audience: How did you get a river cleaned? In my city in India we recently had an earthquake and after that we experienced changes that affected the river levels and water quality. Also, due to the earthquake, salt water entered the river, which is a primary source of drinking water for our city. I am interested in recommendations from the panel as to how to remove salt water from the rivers as well as what was done in the case study to actually clean the river.

Dr. Kim: There were several types of measures used to clean the river. First, the use of dredging channels, although there has been controversy over the dredging practice as some ecologists say that it is not good for maintaining an ecosystem. However, it is necessary for improving the water quality of the Han River. Second, installation of wastewater treatment plants is another measure that was used to clean the river. Many plants have been installed to treat the wastewater coming from point and non-point sources. Third, the city government has also been utilizing tertiary treatment plant systems after putting secondary treatment practices in place. Biological treatment of wastewater has also been used for the cleaning of the Han River. Purification systems using vegetation is another measure implemented. Fourth, ecopond systems are yet another measure that is used to remove the non-point sources such as nitrogen and phosphorus in the water.

The city mentioned by the panelist is one of several cities where the river flows through multiple jurisdictions. Therefore, the cities have created a regional working group with local city authorities as members. This is important because it is useless to implement practices in one city when the other surrounding cities are not implementing the same practices. The purpose of the working group is to strengthen that cooperation among the cities to the benefit of all.

It is sometimes necessary to use practices involving the citizens of the area. In our case we utilized grease collectors and collectors of fruits that are turned into fertilizer rather than being thrown into the canals. We also utilize sandbags along the shore to keep out soiled water and contaminants.

Member of audience: My city has two lakes. The areas surrounding the lakes have experienced tremendous pollution. We were in need of great financial assistance to implement programs to clean up the lake. We were able to receive some assistance from a Japanese bank, and have since implemented a reforestation program around the lake. We have begun planting one million trees around the lake. Another problem that we have been facing is public participation.

We have created a temporary river to prevent salt water from getting into the river that is being used as a source of drinking water. I would be interested in any information the panelists can provide on chemicals that can be used to purify water in lakes and rivers. When sewage treatment plants cannot handle the capacity of sewage being produced, untreated wastewater enters the rivers and it becomes the biggest pollutant of the river. Making enough sewage treatment plants for developing countries is almost impossible due to the cost.

Member of panel: We have researched technologies that introduce aeration of water into lakes, reservoirs, and tanks as a measure of purification. Using bottom diffusers brings

oxygen into the water especially down into the lower areas. This also introduces microbes into water, which eat bacteria. And then the insects eat the microbes and the fish eat the insects and it creates a cycle of restoration of the water body. This practice has already been done in Northern France successfully, and the World Bank's Water division has expressed interest in such a system.

Dr. Kim: Although we have no problems with earthquakes or flooding one measure of quality has been to avoid chemical treatment. We evaluate water conditions through water temperatures using natural items for restoration, never chemicals. Fundamental cooperation of centers including government, both local and national, the people and others have established committees and include members from each area. We use three major methods: (1) there is a user fee for water with funds being used to improve water quality and to help poorer people that live in the river area; (2) a Comprehensive Water Quality Improvement Plan has been created; and (3) we regulate the source of pollution through a monitoring system involving citizens as a preventative measure.

Restoration doesn't happen overnight. Pollution was created by industry, development and necessity. It took 40 years to get the river back at great sacrifice to the people. This example is given to make the point that that economic development must be followed by sacrifice. Requirements now include not using chemicals, such as pesticides and fertilizers; factories cannot be built in certain zones. This is to ensure a sustainable development and an environmentally sound status for the next generation.

Member of audience: It is important to find cost effective wastewater treatment systems. Most wastewater treatment plants are too costly for developing countries to sustain. Even if a country is able to obtain a loan to construct a wastewater treatment system the country may not be able to keep it running. Therefore, we look to countries like the United States who have been conducting research on sustainable wastewater treatment systems and technologies. Systems that utilize natural resources that are abundant in developing countries such as land or solar power are most useful. Plants that require very little start-up expenditures as well as very little power or labor to run are very desirable. Plants that can run for years and years at very little cost are the best solution.

Member of panel: In response to the request for documentation, UNEP-IETC of Japan has published a book entitled, "Planning and Management of Lakes and Reservoirs" which talks about a lot of the topics discussed during this session. They are also in the process of producing booklets on vital technologies for treatment plants and ecosystems. It also should be noted there are regional networks available, which share best practices and provide opportunities for knowledge transfers between cities and provide implementing strategies.

Regulations are needed for the protection of lakes for pollution. Solutions should not rely only on technology, but also on the intervention by citizens and government.

#### Sessions 3 and 4: Urban Governance and Social Development

Session Chair: The Honorable N. Cinnamon Dornsife, US Ambassador, Asian Development Bank, Manila, Philippines

Facilitator: Donna Silverberg, DS Consulting, Portland, Oregon

Case Study Presenters:

Mayor Omar Kamil, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Dr. Corazon Raymundo, President, POWER, Pasig, Philippines

Respondents:

Hiroaki Suzuki, Lead Operations Officer, South Asia Infrastructure Operation Unit, The World Bank, Washington D.C.

Dr. Paul Chamniern, Director, Grassroots Action Program, Thailand Environmental Institute, Bangkok, Thailand

This combined session explored new approaches to urban management that focus on enhancing social development, especially urban poverty alleviation, and the contribution of social development to a city's economic and physical vitality. The sessions explored new partnership-based models developed in Asian cities to improve existing urban services and to planning and implement new urban improvements. Mayor Kamil presented a case study of Colombo, Sri Lanka, and Corazon Raymundo followed with one for Pasig, Philippines. Mr. Von Einsiedel closed the session with a synthesis of the whole track.

Highlights from discussion by respondents and audience:

Dr. Joseph Young, Honolulu: Local government plays such an important role. Mayor Harris has divided the island of Oahu into 19 regions. Each region is allotted \$2 million to set up capital improvements. The Mayor listens to each region on how money should be spent. People do not have to live in areas to participate. The process helps to inform government on how to spend money.

Charles Wiggins (Portland, Oregon): I heard a number of themes throughout the sessions: first, the importance of interaction between "Top Down" and "Bottom Up" regarding decision making process. You need commitment/involvement at top, but most work is done at local levels. Interaction between citizens and leadership is key. Second is transparency. Dr. Chamniern's presentation highlighted the importance of transparency in planning and implementation of programs. Third is flexibility. Urban planning is typically done in fixed formats and this poses problems, e.g., the China plan that was created in the early 1990's. The implementation of the plan did not occur until 2000 and they found that they had locked in too early. Built-in feed loops are needed to allow for better adaptation to local needs and conditions. Fourth is accountability. Initiatives are introduced but not followed through, e.g., five Indian cities and conflict resolution – nothing has happened. Citizens need to see tangible results.

Member of audience (Japan): These are the lessons I have learned here and at home: First, utilize available budgets to create a master plan. Second, be aware of the environmental dimension (they experienced an increase in waste and were uncertain how to manage it) and the age dimension (with the aging of the people, they found a change in lifestyles). Third, in a time of limited or decreasing budgets, listen not only to citizens, but also to field employees. The quality of service to city residents must be maintained. An example from city waste collection: senior citizens are told to leave waste in front of homes. If waste collectors don't see waste bags, call in is made to check on citizens to see if they are OK. This idea came from workers. The program is cost effective -- no extra budget needed and a good service is provided for senior citizens.

Jeff Boyer (USAEP): Cities must continue to talk to one another. This can be done through local associations. Cities should continue to talk after conferences through

Media and professional associations. Key issues include poverty and moving from planning to implementation

Member of audience (New Zealand): Promote more material to citizens via means such as TV documentaries. Most good ideas come from citizens. Show other communities how to deal with issues by “telling stories.”

Nathaniel von Einsiedel: Summary of Entire Track

### Lessons Learned

1. Community and citizen participation or “civic engagement”
  - A. Is very important for sustainable regional and urban planning
  - B. Women and urban poor are especially important participants
    - 1) To help in planning and monitoring monetary processes.
2. Importance of regional cooperation
  - A. May be one city, but cooperation from surrounding jurisdictions is needed for environmental concerns.
  - B. Institutions need to cooperate at regional and institutional levels.
3. Partnership with private enterprises
  - A. Education relative to environment
  - B. Partnerships to maintain cleanliness
4. Necessity of scientific analysis
  - A. Sustainability issues
    - 1) Need to know technology in order to correctly address environmental concerns
  - B. Need to look into natural technologies
    - 1) Financing not always available for more than this
    - 2) Tend to be self-sustaining
5. Role of Champions
  - A. Innovative approaches can come from any area of society
  - B. Use innovative approaches to solve problems
  - C. Don’t need just leaders, need innovators and pushers to implement ideas.
6. Linking of Solutions to local customs and traditional practices
  - A. Environmental areas
    - 1) River festivals
    - 2) Engaging children
      - a) Music festivals
      - b) Art
      - c) Religion
7. Visible Accomplishments that citizens can see.
  - A. Demonstrate concrete accomplishments quickly
  - B. Helps to develop partnerships and credibility for City programs

## Obstacles Facing the Asia Pacific Region

1. Diversity and Number of languages spoken
  - A. Information typically given in English
  - B. Local dialect is important but funding not typically available
  - C. Good documents not used due to language barriers
  - D. Need translations to help with community participation
2. Little local autonomy (excluding China and Vietnam)
  - A. Decentralization is still just on paper
  - B. Local authorities still dependent on central government for financing
  - C. Local authorities typically can't raise money independently. Only Malaysia and Philippines can JV with private enterprise for raising revenue
  - D. Typically need to go through central government
3. Conflicts of interest
  - A. Poverty stricken are merely trying to survive
  - B. Well off see impoverished as the problem when instead they are a symptom.
  - C. Example: sidewalk vendors in Jakarta
4. Low levels of skills/institutional capacities
  - A. Example Thailand
    - 1) Government employees don't have experience or training for municipal governing
    - 2) Much of training still in English so impact is low.
5. Lack of Understanding the Principles of Sustainable Development
  - A. Needs to be put in methods that locals can understand
    - 1) Most ideas come from foreign sources as a program without being adaptable.

## Strategies and Tools

1. Will be successful if program/project based – need goals
  - A. Programs need to have narrow and not broad focus such as
    - 1) Tree planting programs
    - 2) Garbage collection
2. Strengthen Environmental Education
  - A. Make the community a learning laboratory
  - B. Start at lower levels
  - C. Teach children how to formulate problem and arrive at solution
3. Regional cooperation
  - A. Adjoining authorities need to form joint ventures -- helps in sharing costs
4. Use urban redevelopment (e.g. "Brown Field Development")
  - A. Revitalizes resources, which revitalizes economy
    - 1) Revitalizes economies
    - 2) Creates jobs
  - B. E.g., Old railroad yards, old power plants

5. Use of natural technology/resources
  - A. Partnership with local research institutes (Example, China)
    - 1) Link scientific work with decision-making
  - B. Use cultural and traditional practices to enhance understanding and use.
  - C. Target budgets for poverty reduction and environmental improvements
    - 1) take out of infrastructure funds.
  - D. Long-term perspective on land use needed.
    - 1) What is planned is not implemented, what is implemented is not planned.
    - 2) Notion of planning is "Western"
    - 3) Fast growing regions don't have the luxury of research.
  - E. Use of multiple resources such as citizen watch and advisory
    - 1) More options for participation, more involvement leads to success