

**Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on
Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD)**

**Meeting of the Working Group on
Urban and Rural Planning and Management**

**August 16-17, 2012
New Delhi**

Recommendations of the Working Group Meeting

I. Approaches to Urban and Rural Planning and Management in Asia Pacific Region.

1. The urban centres in the countries of Asia-Pacific region are playing the role of generators of economic growth momentum and act as the backbone of the economy of their respective countries. In this context, the planning and management efforts should encourage and strengthen this trend.
2. In the context of the rapid urbanization, Asia Pacific Countries need to place human settlements planning appropriately in the realm of development planning.
3. The planning process need to be reoriented towards being 'bottom' driven and participatory rather than 'top' driven and expert oriented.
4. The role of the Governments in most of the countries appears to be changing from actual 'delivery' to being 'facilitators'. While this approach may be appropriate, the Governments will have much increased role in the era of privatization/globalisation by way of regulating and addressing the requirements of the urban poor.
5. There is also a need to enlarge the platform from Public Private Partnership (PPP) to Public Private People Partnership (PPPP). The essential role of the

Governments should be to achieve a balance between social costs and private benefits, and social benefits and private costs.

6. In the emerging context, the Metros and Mega Cities will need to focus on efforts to reduce the consumption of land, water and energy.
7. Metro and Mega Cities shall also be required to reorient or evolve an urban form capable to incorporate renewed planning so as to make way for ever changing technology, transport and business.
8. Integration of land use and public transport should be a focus area and cities need to be restructured in accordance with the same.
9. Most countries currently in the Asia Pacific Region are adopting the approach of Master Plan preparation, which in the recent past has not been considered adequate enough to accommodate the emerging challenges. Accordingly, each country would review the efficiency, applicability of the same especially in view of operationalisation and implementation of the plans, environmental issues, hazard prone areas as well as issues connected with urban poor.
10. Small and Island Nations need to focus their planning efforts inter-alia in relation to the environmental sensitivity issues including impact of climate change and the planning paradigm needs to shift to focus additional and centre-stage such critical issues of long term in nature.
11. Disaster preparedness should be a focus area of human settlement planning. Every planning effort should essentially incorporate, in relation to the anticipated natural calamities, the context based response mechanism and avenues.

II : Inclusive Planning and Practices

1. The Human Settlements planning should be 'people centric' rather than 'project and space centric'.
2. The planning process should be 'inclusive' by adequately recognising the role of 'informal sector and settlements' and should follow a 'city-wide approach'.
3. The human settlements planning should be sensitive to the requirements of all the sections of the society and particularly the women, children, differently-abled, and such other socially disadvantaged, and the planning efforts and outputs should be responsive and incorporate provisions that address such special requirements.
4. The human settlements planning process should be 'pro-active' in anticipating the growth dynamics and its expected impact on city structure and form, and accordingly incorporate futuristic provisions for urban poor and vulnerable sections.
5. The Asia Pacific countries at large need to evolve a range of options for shelter delivery, in tune with the affordability of the anticipated sections of the society. Feasibility of incorporating provisions such as reservation of land and housing in major development projects for the urban poor need a special focus.
6. Access to basic services to all sections of the city should be the core objective of all planned efforts, with focus on sanitation, health and education services.
7. The planning process must recognise the locational association in terms of work-residence relationship and accordingly accommodate the same while considering any urban renewal effort.

8. The planning process should recognise the contributory role of the urban poor, in the city's function and economy, and need to incorporate provisions that would facilitate their integration in the urban society.
9. The planning process should be participatory in nature, with active involvement of the civil society including the disadvantaged and slum dwellers. The local culture need to be used as a tool for harnessing support and cooperation of the local community.
10. The planning efforts must ensure the preservation of culturally rich cities and the cultural identity of cities, and focus on preservation and conservation of the cultural heritage of such cities and their value enhancement.

II. Urban-Rural Continuum - Imperatives of Integrated Planned Development

1. The planning process must recognize that human settlements are like organisms and they tend to grow within a socio-economic and cultural milieu. Thus, the existing complementary relationship in the resource flow and interaction between the urban and the rural hinterland should form the basis for integrated planning.
2. Asia Pacific countries need to incorporate a regional settlement development framework in their human settlements planning effort, seeking an order in the settlement size and hierarchy, and towards facilitating strengthening such evolving relationship and promoting balanced regional development.
3. The planning of large cities should essentially be on a larger regional canvas to facilitate development in a regional resource framework.

4. In the context of rapid urbanization, it is imperative that if the planning process is not responsive, the peri-urban areas would face haphazard development. Accordingly, Asia Pacific countries need to bring in spatial planning regulatory provisions, to ensure orderly development of fringe areas to reflect a gradual, equitable and mutually complementary development.
5. There is an increasing tendency for large scale space intensive and also polluting activities getting located in the urban fringe areas in most cities of the countries of the Asia Pacific Region. The planning process must be sensitive towards this issue to ensure that the fragile fringe areas do not become dumping yards for the large cities.
6. The planning efforts need to ensure strengthening the connectivity of the mother city and its region, towards facilitating spatial dispersal of unmanageable growth from the city, and also facilitating the 'deprived' periphery to attract activities.

IV: Land-related issues in Urban and Rural Planning and Management

1. A more democratic approach towards land acquisition and development to minimize the need for conversion of agricultural land for urbanization and controlling the urban sprawl by optimum densities, intensive development and decentralization.
2. The Asia-Pacific countries need to promote conscious policies such as reservation of land in City Plans to ensure that requirements of urban poor are adequately addressed. Toward the samean inclusive land policy and participatory planning effort, where in-situ rehabilitation can be done by using land as a resource needs to form part of City Planning process.

3. In the context of land become a scarce commodity in cities for organised development, innovative land pooling, readjustment and development models, as already being applied in many cities in Asia-Pacific region, deserves examination for suitable adoption and adaptation.
4. A hybrid Land Policy to suit various types of development may be adopted by synergising the resources of both public and private sectors. Such a land policy may have a combination of modes such as compulsory land acquisition through cash/alternative land allotment, development rights, FAR/FSI and Land Pooling. The infrastructure development can be financed through various monetisation modes such as conversion charges, FAR charges, Betterment Levy, etc.
5. Optimum supply of land should be ensured by smart and compact growth, through various modes such as commercial/mixed land use, Transferable Development Rights, sale of FSI and air rights, Public Private Participation, etc. to augment the affordable supply of land for housing other basic services for the poor.
6. Public Private Partnership in Land development initiatives covering land acquisition, development and disposal, may be encouraged and prerequisites for implementing Public-Private-Participation in Land Policy should be in place before hand. Simplification of all regulations and procedures concerning land management, guaranteeing more transparency and cheaper land administration, better information base, like MIS enabled GIS, computerization of land records and inventory of land need to be done.
7. A strong legal and regulatory framework would be necessary for enhancing the participation of the private sector in development of land. Innovations like land sharing, one-window approval, permitting Transferable

Development Rights, fiscal incentives for private sector development, etc. would go a long way in making PPP in land development a success.

8. Incorporation of 'Informal Sector' in planned development by earmarking 'hawking Zones', sites for 'weekly markets', new areas for informal trades and involvement of NGOs, etc. is very relevant for most Asia Pacific countries and require attention.
9. In the context of rapid growth of cities, the urban land need to be appropriately organised and utilised towards adequately meeting the financial requirements for implementation of the city plan.

V. **Tools, Technologies, and Capacity Building for Urban and Rural Planning and Management**

1. The human settlement planning process continues to be largely based on conventional methods not utilising the emerging technologies and innovative techniques. By using Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) in convergence with Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques accurate information on environment and infrastructure resources could be collected and maintained in data bank at country/state/district/block/ward/slum level.
2. The successful use of Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) in governance and development will depend upon pervasiveness of the basic Information Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure. SDI and GIS techniques should be effectively utilised in preparedness of disaster management programme in Asia and Pacific region.
3. In the context of rapid urbanisation and growth of cities in the Asia_Pacific Region, it is necessary to strengthen the planning education structure and

network in all the countries, to have adequate and trained personnel in the field of sustainable development of human settlements at large.

4. Planning is a process, and there is a need to ensure a continuing effort for capacity building of the personnel involved in the planning and management of urban and rural settlements. Such continual effort should be addressed the various levels of the personnel involved in such activities.
5. There isa large number of innovative best practices in the urban and rural planning and management emerging in the Asia Pacific region. For capacity building of urban managers, Exchange Programmes for city mayors/officials of ULBs need to be introduced between countries of Asia-Pacific region.
6. Institutions imparting training in innovative planning techniques need to be identified in countries of the Asia- Pacific region and networking enabled so that technocrats/planners of the member countries could be imparted training in the identified institutes.
7. For exchange of technical know-how of tools and technologies in planning and management, an Asia Pacific Alliance for urban and rural managers could be constituted, wherein best practices in the area of urban and rural management in the countries of Asia-Pacific region are documented, shared and made available to other countries. This may also include a technical journal highlighting the best practices in the Asia Pacific region in the area of urban and rural planning and management.
8. An award for `the most liveable and inclusive city' could be introduced/initiated with seed money being provided by member countries.
