

## Introduction to Technical Sessions

The Asia-Pacific region is undergoing vibrant economic transformations with a number of countries recording remarkable economic and social gains. Home to 60 per cent of humanity, the region has vast human resources promising further potential for growth and development. At the same time, rapid urbanisation in the region is further enhancing the role of cities as engines of economic growth. Bringing together the various countries in the region this meeting of the working group offers a unique platform to address these regional challenges through collaborative efforts and sharing of experiences and best practices.

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### **TECHNICAL SESSION I**

#### **Approaches to Urban and Rural Planning and Management in Asia Pacific Region**

This theme encompasses aspects related to regional level planning for large urban agglomerations; address connectivity and linkage issues between rural and economic activities, transportation networks and connectivity; look into institutional mechanism and legislative framework for urban planning and management; address monitoring and review mechanisms as well as evaluation approaches for policies and projects for urban development.

In India, urban and rural planning, more often referred to as 'town planning' is about a 100 years old. Although town planning of some sort was indeed prevalent in ancient times, it was only with the enactment of the Bombay Town Planning Act in the year 1914 that modern town planning came into force in the country, initially in the state of Maharashtra and later, on other states of the country. This legislation heralded a new era in town planning on modern scientific lines as is known to us today. The influences of the British, the French and the Dutch played a key role in shaping the human settlement structure in the towns and cities. Amongst these western colonists, the British had the major influence since they ruled India for over 200 years. Therefore, Town Planning Schemes and Master Plans found their way in the country. Town Planning Departments were set up in various states of India to undertake the tasks related to planning of towns. While approaches to town planning were quite clear, there has been little emphasis on planning in the rural areas and villages in India. While there have been rural housing and rural development programmes, there have not been any rural settlement planning programmes in India.

Initially, the approach to town planning ( in urban areas ) was by way of undertaking town planning ( TP ) schemes. That soon led way to the preparation of Master Plans. In addition, 'new towns' was another approach that has been adopted in many states. In order to promote industrial development, industrial estates and industrial towns have also been created. Later, public-private partnerships have become quite popular where both the government agencies and the private sector come together to set up projects. The creation of special economic zones ( SEZs ) is yet another approach where land is assembled on a large scale for the creation of special zones where government concessions are provided to initiate rapid economic development.

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### **TECHNICAL SESSION II**

#### **Inclusive Planning and Practices**

The theme encompasses traditional and indigenous planning methods, institutional mechanisms to facilitate participatory approaches in planning, look into the tools and methods for participatory planning; inclusive approaches for planning and urban management, inclusion of older city cores in planning and growth of urban areas and urban renewal strategies.

The enactment of town planning laws in India was with the belief was that good town planning would lead to better public health and reduction in widespread diseases. With growing influx of low income population into cities and the increase in the number of slum dwellers, housing and civic infrastructure became a casualty. Informal economy began to thrive. In order that cities are properly planned, Master Plans were prescribed and prepared. These included, amongst other things, land uses for different uses, development controls and subdivision regulations. As part of municipal functions, building byelaws, etc. were framed. To tackle the specific problem of slums, various central and state government schemes have been introduced from time to time. These were geared to specifically address the requirements of the low income population.

In order to make development more inclusive, participatory approaches have been introduced. In many cases, NGOs and CBOs have also been brought into the scheme of things so that there is more 'inclusion'. With the introduction of the JNNURM ( Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission ) in the year 2005, stakeholder consultations have become centre stage to the whole process of urban development. Whilst JNNURM is limited to 65 cities in the country, the remaining cities are covered under IHSDP ( Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme ) for providing basic services and shelter for the urban poor in slum areas.

Housing projects of urban development authorities and housing boards in various states have been hitherto funded by the Housing and Urban Development Corporation ( HUDCO ) with a focus on at least 50 percent of funding for the low income groups and economically weaker sections of the society. This by far has been one of the major efforts at inclusion in the area of housing and urban development in the country.

Whilst in India we have till date not made specific mention of the word 'inclusive' in our National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy 2007 or in any of our state housing policies, the concept has been in many ways latent in our policy thinking. As a welfare state, the Government of India as well as the state governments have always taken a sympathetic view towards providing housing to the low income populations. However, due to the rather low level of public / government investments, such housing has been small in quantity and hard to come by.

India has 286 million people living in over 5000 cities and towns with over 40 per cent of them living in 60 metropolitan urban agglomerations. There are 61.7 million urban people living in slums and squatter settlements today. It is projected that urban population of the country will grow to 468 million by 2020. This would have serious impact on housing, civic infrastructure, basic amenities and employment.

Conscious of the issues of slums and poverty, the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government in India through the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) has committed itself to a comprehensive approach to urban renewal with emphasis on social housing, inclusive city growth and slum upgradation and development. Government of India has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) last year to address the problems of slums and civic amenities to the poor in an

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integrated manner and has allocated an amount of US \$12.5 billion as central grant which would leverage state share, institutional finance and beneficiary contribution.

In the Indian context, one can visualize inclusive housing in terms of the following categories viz.

a) *Social Inclusion* – India is a land of diverse cultures; caste being one of the key components. While there are four major divisions of caste, there are dozens of sub-castes within. Society is highly stratified and segregated. A large number of states and languages further add to the complexity. Many sections of Indian society have been disadvantaged and deprived for centuries and it is the endeavour of the governments both at the national and sub-national level to ‘include’ citizens from all walks of life. The Indira AwasYojana is one such national housing programme which incorporates social inclusion, although it is only confined to the rural areas of the country. However, a large number of social groups perceive that they are not included in the housing programmes / they have little access to housing programmes. Whilst policy does not discriminate any social group from accessing housing, the exclusion is more from the lack of awareness and low incomes of the people than anything else. Further, social exclusion seems to exist in many places, by way of traditional practice, for centuries.

b) *Economic Inclusion* - Large segments of urban population belong to the low income population. The affordability of such population is very low and therefore, they automatically are excluded from the formal housing market. Further, the nature of formal supply is also such that it caters only to the upper reaches of the income band and the lower reaches of the income band are excluded. Such population have no other choice but to fend for themselves and look for alternatives, not always formal or legal. Consequent physical segregation is the outcome of economic out pricing. As a result, large pockets of low-income population tend to congregate in one or more places, thereby creating islands of exclusion. Similarly, the richer class of people who are able to get themselves included in the formal systems of housing supply, in the well serviced and ‘posh’ areas, become inhabitants of ‘exclusive’ enclaves of prosperity where people who have ‘arrived’ can only stay.

c) *Financial Inclusion* – One of the ways in which one can include the categories of people who cannot afford housing is to increase their access by way of greater access to mortgage finance. In India today, unfortunately, housing finance cannot be accessed by a majority of the houseless population on account of the fact that the conditions are quite stringent. On account of a variety of reasons, banks and financial institutions demand many requirements to be fulfilled before loans are sanctioned. Therefore, the lower income population get excluded from the housing finance market. Although attempts are being made by the National Housing Bank and other organizations to develop micro-finance systems which can include the lower incomes in their loan portfolios, a lot of ground still needs to be covered before financial inclusion of the low income population can become a reality.

d) *Inclusion of the Aged* – With increased medical facilities, advancement in treatment methodologies and general improvement in the quality of life, the population of aged persons or the elderly is on the rise. Often, such population find it difficult to access housing. Housing for the elderly, as is popular in some societies, is not very popular in India. Further, there is also a school of thought that by developing exclusive projects for housing the elderly, one is actually secluding them from the social mainstream and milieu and thereby, contributing to exclusion of a different kind. There are no laws in this regard in India and whatever little is being done is by the private sector and the state has done precious little.

e) *Inclusion of the Physically Challenged* - There are many sub-categories of physically challenged persons in Indian society. Persons with any of these challenges need special provisions in housing units in order to make living adequate and comfortable for them. Full access or barrier free built environments have become very important in order to cater to the needs of an inclusive society. In most cities in India, the local building byelaws do incorporate mandatory provisions for buildings to make these provisions. However, here again, one can cite many examples where these provisions are seldom implemented. In fact, the building byelaws incorporate these provisions for public and semi-public buildings and not for residential buildings. This makes it very difficult for physically challenged persons to access housing.

f) *Inclusion Under Special Circumstances* – There are many groups of people living under special circumstances. Groups engaged in home based economic activities, occupational groups ( such as fishermen ), refugees, disaster affected victims, oustees, etc. Again, while the special requirements of each of these groups are very peculiar and different, sometimes, their physical inclusion becomes difficult. In most instances, housing projects catering to the requirements of such population do not get developed. Further, other groups of people such as single men, single women, orphans, widows, etc. are also other vulnerable sections of the society who often are not included in the housing supply in the country and thereby suffer from exclusion.

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### **TECHNICAL SESSION III**

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#### **Urban–Rural Continuum – Imperative of Integrated Planned Development :**

This theme deals with aspects related to holistic approach to planning for developing a symbiotic relationship between the rural and the urban. It shall look into integrated planned approaches for integrated and sustainable regional level planning. The discussions shall deal with the multiple issues connected with the disconnect between the urban and the rural.

In many states of the country, regional planning has been emphasised. Large metropolitan regions have been conceived with a view to integrate urban and rural areas, particularly those areas which are in the hinterland of the ‘mother’ city. The National Capital Region is perhaps the largest of such regions. Other large metropolitan cities have also demarcated such regions.

A few decades ago, the National Commission on Urbanisation identified many Spatial Priority Urbanisation Regions ( SPURS ).

The Delhi – Mumbai Industrial Corridor is a new proposal where integration of the urban and the rural is a part of the overall scheme of things for promoting industrial development.

In many parts of the country, corridor development of human settlements has been happening in a natural manner as a part of peri-urban development along highways. Kerala, a state in south India is known for its urban-rural continuum.

Sometime ago, the Government of India embarked upon a massive programme of constructing national highways in the form of a ‘Golden Quadrilateral’ connecting various parts of the length and breadth of the country. This highway connects many towns and cities across Indian and passes through many villages.

In order to bring the benefits of development to the villages, the Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development launched the PURA ( Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas ) programme in several

villages. The idea was to identify a cluster of villages, connect them with roads, provide the basic infrastructure and skill upgradation so that income generating opportunities could be initiated. This programme has been initiated in several states of the country.

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#### **TECHNICAL SESSION IV**

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##### **Land related issues in Urban and Rural Planning and Management**

This theme deals with land as a resource and its sustainable development. The session shall explore the various aspects related with land tenure systems and the role of institutions in providing a regulatory framework which safeguards the needs of the vulnerable groups while, at the same time, provide for the economic growth of the urban and rural populace and their burgeoning needs.

One of the key inputs for human settlement development is land. While in the early days of India's independence, land was more easily available for urban development purposes, today the situation is quite opposite. Land in the cities has become very expensive while in the rural areas, farmers just are not willing to part with this essential resource. Farmer agitations on land acquisition have become quite common these days.

In addition to the supply of land for urban development, there are many other problems with land record maintenance, ownership title issues, mortgages, land acquisition on a large scale for urban development, land transfers and so on. Land being a state subject in the Indian Constitution, the laws and systems of land administration are different in each state. This makes things extremely complex.

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#### **TECHNICAL SESSION V**

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

The theme deals with aspects related to specific and innovative tools and technologies for effective delivery of services and sustainable urban and rural management. Capacity building of various stakeholders, policy makers and implementation agencies at various institutional levels of urban management is an imperative for effective rural and urban management. This also deals with identifying the needs and gaps in capacity building in the sector.

Human capacities have been found to be woefully lacking in the urban and municipal sector. While India has experienced a major urbanisation boom in the last decade, the human resource requirements in the government departments have not really kept pace with changing technologies, approaches and methods of working. On the one hand, India has some of the best schools of planning and architecture for human settlement planning and design and there are many private consultancy organisations with a high degree of professional expertise, the urban local bodies and town planning bodies have a lack of adequate manpower. To begin with, there is an urgent need for increasing the number of posts in the government departments and municipal bodies so that they are well equipped to handle the tasks at hand. Adequate and trained manpower, computers and other latest equipments, GIS and other software are some of the requirements that are needed. Further, the manpower also needs constant updating of knowledge and becoming abreast with the latest developments.

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# Urban and Rural Planning and Management: Theme Paper

**1.0** Asia and the Pacific is the fastest growing economic region in the world, yet unsustainable growth, population increase, increased consumption and urbanization challenge the region's sustainable development. In the year 2010, 43% of the Asia and the Pacific population lived in urban areas, the second lowest urban proportion of a region in the world; however, in the last two decades the Asia-Pacific urban proportion has risen by 29 per cent, more than any other region – according to ESCAP figures. Robust governance structures enhanced accountability and coordinated sustainability approaches need to be integrated across all policy levels, if the region is to overcome the challenges it faces today. A look at how the human settlements grew, what has been the urbanisation trend and what have been the redressal mechanisms shall help at crystallising the thought process.

## **2.0 Historical account of Planning of Human Settlements**

The planning of human settlements has been taking place since the dawn of civilization. The surpluses generated in the rural areas led to the creation of so called bigger settlements, which became the marketing centres and consequently urban, and were located along the rivers because of the ease of transport both for people as well as goods, which was river based. Human civilization grew around these settlements. We are aware of great civilizations like Egyptians, Roman, Mesopotamians, Greek, Persian, Indus, Maya so on and so forth which had sophisticated system of urban planning. The experts are of the opinion that the first known planned settlements grew around 7000 BC in present day Turkey and were fully developed township by 6000 BC. However, some Archaeologist also believe that the great epic of Mahabharata in India was actually the historical account of the civilization that existed in India around 15000 BC and the large number of townships were developed in the Northern India. However, the urban settlements of Mohenjo-daro and Harappa (Pakistan) and Dholavira (India), represent a very highly developed urban planning concepts, dating 3500 BC. The grid iron street pattern was adopted and houses were planned and located in accordance with the class/status. Rain water harvesting techniques were incorporated at the city level and entire water management was taken care off. The temple cities in India like Varanasi, Ujjain are known as the cities of antiquity and are based on ancient treaties on urban planning. During medieval ages the urban planning concepts were tuned to the changing circumstances and the classic examples of series of walled cities in India. Similarly, it is believed that very rich civilization in China gave birth to large number of cities which were planned and designed based on cosmic forces. Significant number of cities in the Asia Pacific Region had series of historically rich urban planning experiences which enriched the literature on the subject.

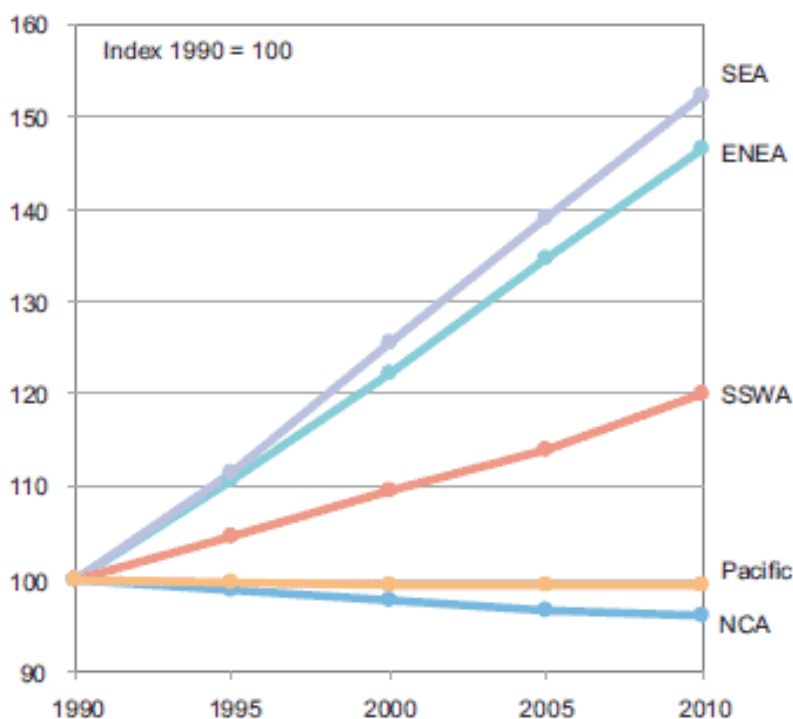
## **3.0 Evolution of modern day planning**

The modern urban planning emerged in the later part of 19<sup>th</sup> Century due to rapidly growing chaotic and polluted cities in western Europe as an outcome of industrialisation. Economic depression (1929-39) further brought together a large number of thinkers, who were categorized as **pragmatists** or **utopians**. The pragmatist were architects-Daniel Burnham, Lawyers-Alfred Bettman and Edward Bassett, Engineers-Robert

Moses, Social critics-Jane Jacobs and publicists-Walter Moody. Pragmatic ideology involved a perspective of improving city form for better functioning, engage in new construction and adopt policies with greater reliance on control mechanisms. The first group of idealists were Robert Owen, **Ebenezer Howard**, and **Patrick Geddes**, who, were so called anti urban ,promoted urban design based on blend of country and city, semi rural landscape with green belts and suggested an ideal city size of 30-40,000. people. Patrick Geddes advocated that the physical planning and design is not a engineering solution but involves strong co-relation between folk, place and work. Similarly, Ebenezer Howard advocated garden city concept to recreate English village life. The second group of idealists was **LeCorbusier**, **Lewis Mumford** and **Frank Lloyd Wright**. Le Corbusier promoted a concept of modernist city which is highly ordered and functional; Frank Lloyd Wright promoted idle cities with low density and dispersed urban form. Automobile started shaping the cities in 1920 and the rise of zoning in 1926 and standard city planning enabling act in 1928 in US and subsequently Town and Country planning act 1947 of UK shaped the modern thinking on urban planning.

#### 4.0 Urbanisation Trend in Asia –Pacific Region

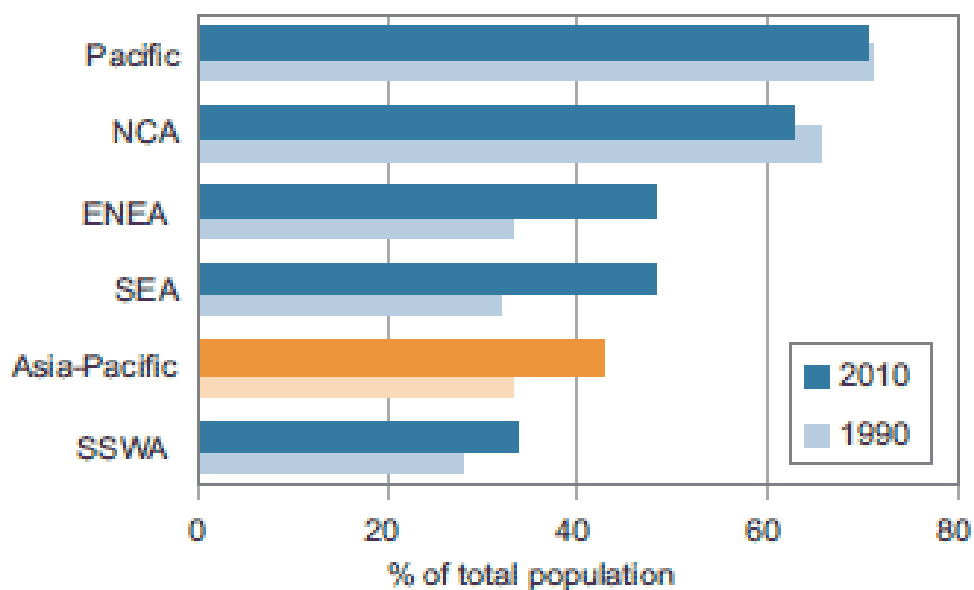
Urban areas house half of the world's population and in the Asia-Pacific region; rapid economic growth is closely linked with urbanization levels. Between 2005 and 2010, the urbanized proportion of the world's population overtook the rural population (rising from 49% in 2005 to 51% in 2010); and the urban population continues to grow (the average annual growth between 2005 and 2010 was 1.9%). As of 2010, Asia and the Pacific is the second least urbanized region of the world, with only 43% of the population living in urban areas; however, it has the second fastest urban population growth rate, at an average of 2.0% per annum (2005-2010). Currently, Africa is the least urbanized region and has the highest urban population growth in the world, at an average annual rate of 3.5% (2005- 2010). Across the Asia-Pacific region, the urban proportion and urban population growth rates vary dramatically.



**Figure– Index of Urban Proportion, Asia-Pacific Subregions, 1990 to 2010**

Source : UN ESCAP ( 2011 ) Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific

Within Asia and the Pacific, the Pacific sub region is the most urbanized, with 71% of the population living in cities and towns; however, the urban proportion was already at 71% in 1990. Micronesia (Federated States of ), Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Tonga are exceptions, each having less than 25% of their population living in urban areas. In contrast, South and South-West Asia is the least urbanized with only 33% of the population living in urban areas. Exceptions in this sub region are Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey, where approximately 70% of the population lives in urban areas.



**Figure– Urban Population, Asia-Pacific Subregions, 1990 and 2010**

Source : UN ESCAP ( 2011 ) Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific

South and South-West Asia had the fastest urban population growth rate of all the Asian and Pacific sub regions at an average of 2.4% per year during 2005-2010. The South-East Asia urban population growth was somewhat slower at 2.2% per year, followed by East and North-East Asia at 2.0% and the Pacific at 1.8%. In North and Central Asia the urban population growth rate has hovered close to zero over the last two decades (0.3% for 2005-2010). In general, countries with the fastest urban population growth rates are also those with the lowest levels of urbanization. All ten of the Asia-Pacific countries with an average annual urban population growth rate above 3.0% have an urban proportion at or below 40%.

Only one in ten people lived in cities at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and now almost 50% of population of the world lives in cities .Each year 60 million people are added to the global urban population. In next 25 yrs, the world’s urban areas will grow by an estimated one billion people. Almost all this growth will occur in developing countries.21<sup>st</sup> century has been described as first **urban century** .In 1950 there were 86 cities in the world with a population of over one million and today there are 400, and by 2015 it will be 550.**Richard Stern**, university of Toronto says that the new reality and a new challenge in the world is a large urban region, or city region.Show me the large metropolitan area almost anywhere in the world –in both industrialized zone and the developing areas of Africa, Asia, or Latin America –and I can almost guarantee that I can show a governance system that operates both ineffectively and inequitably. If the growth of huge metropolitan areas in the world looks like an immutable force, then the structure of governance we have erected to respond to the problem of these areas looks like Godzilla .We may also add that The urban planner seems to have withdrawn with all his abilities and tools and the city just happens to remain frozen



unable to cope with the growing problems. The question remains as to why urban planners have not been able to visualize the situation in which our cities are today? Or is it that solutions do not exist? Have we ignored the rural hinterland which has qualified for urban status too fast? Is the failure of cities attributable to failure of integrated urban –rural development? Is regional planning a tool to balance development and has been much ignored? Is it that all problems in the region cannot be addressed in core cities?

## 5.0 Rural Urban Linkages

In the Asia-Pacific region, rapid economic growth is closely linked with urbanization levels. By and large the more developed countries have relatively high levels of urbanization – for example, Asia-Pacific high income countries have an average urbanized proportion of 75%, while the LDC's of the region have an average of 27%. Rapid economic development has encouraged rural inhabitants to migrate to urban areas to improve their economic opportunities and access to services. Rural-to-urban migration is also caused by such “push” factors as the inability of households to sustain livelihoods in rural areas for economic reasons, conflicts, natural disasters and environmental changes such as desertification and saltwater intrusion. Other factors in urban growth are population growth and reclassification of rural areas as urban. The population growth rate in Asia and the Pacific is 1.0%, while urban population growth is 2.0%. Hence, assuming that fertility in urban and rural areas is comparable, roughly half of urban population growth comes from rural-to urban migration and reclassification of rural areas as urban; the rest is due to population growth.

**Cecilia Tacole** – in her paper on the level between urban and rural development classifies that there is tremendous variety of the linkages and interaction between rural areas and urban centres. The experience shows importance of tailoring interventions to the specific environmental, economic and institutional context of each urban centre and its surrounds. This requires a decentralized approach that is driven by local demand and priorities with the participation of wide range of stakeholders in planning and implementing initiative. Further the **author** says – put differently, policies that support the positive aspects of rural – urban linkages and interactions and reduce their negative impacts need to be based on strengthening local democracy and civil society, thus making local government accountable and making sure that the needs and priorities of both rural and urban poor groups are taken into consideration. The local government in small and intermediate urban centre are able to compete with larger cities for new investments and help retain added value from local products and hold the best promise for more decentralized urban system and their capacity to do often depends on better **transport and communication with the core city** - links that need the support of central government.

The population and activities described either as rural or urban are more closely linked both across space and across sectors than is usually thought and that distinctions are often arbitrary. What is defined as an “urban centre” may vary from one country to another and households may be “multi spatial” with some members residing in rural areas and others in towns, as well as engaging in agriculture within urban areas and in non-form activities in the country side. Flows of people, goods and wastes and the related flows of information and money act as linkages across space between cities and country side.

For both urban and rural population recent and current changes in the global social economic and political contexts have resulted in deepening social differentiation and increasing poverty. However, they are also characterized by great diversity at the local level which is the consequences of historical, political, socio-cultural and ecological, as well as economic differences. The failure on the part of urban planners is the fact

that the rural hinterland which provides the life support system have remained ignored and there is a consensus emerging that now we may not be able to afford to be ignorant.

## 6.0 Urbanisation Trend in Asia-Pacific Countries, Issues and redressal mechanisms

Part of the urbanization picture in Asia and the Pacific is the growth of mega-cities – cities whose population exceeds 10 million. Of the world’s 21 mega-cities in 2010, 12 are in Asia, including 7 of the largest 10 cities. Although mega-cities are often portrayed as the face of urbanization in Asia and the Pacific, the reality is that most of the region’s urban population lives in secondary cities and small towns. Specifically, as of 2009, 60% of the urban population in continental Asia lived in cities with a population of less than 1 million, while only 21% lived in cities of from 1 to 5 million.

<b>Largest 30 Urban Agglomerations - Asia and the Pacific countries by International Ranking, 2010</b>			
<b>World Rank Order</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Urban Agglomeration</b>	<b>Population (millions)</b>
1	Japan	Tokyo	36.67
2	India	Delhi	22.16
4	India	Mumbai (Bombay)	20.04
7	China	Shanghai	16.58
8	India	Kolkata (Calcutta)	15.55
9	Bangladesh	Dhaka	14.65
10	Pakistan	Karachi	13.12
13	China	Beijing	12.39
15	Philippines	Manila	11.63
16	Japan	Osaka-Kobe	11.34
19	Russian Federation	Moskva (Moscow)	10.55
20	Turkey	Istanbul	10.52
22	Republic of Korea	Seoul	9.77
23	China	Chongqing	9.40
24	Indonesia	Jakarta	9.21
26	China	Shenzhen	9.01
28	China	Guangzhou, Guangdong	8.88

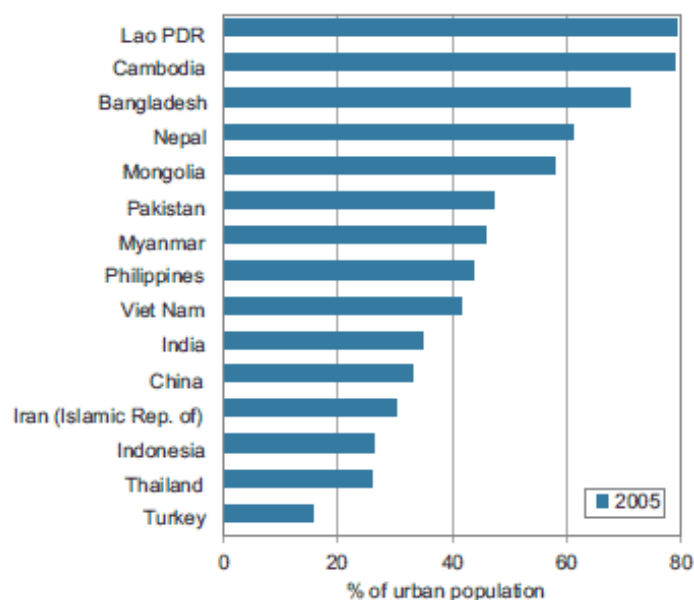
*Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2010). World Urbanization Prospects, the 2009 Revision. ESA/P/WP/215. New York.*

Asia-pacific region is home to sixty million people. The last 20 years have seen the emergence of several **Asia-pacific countries** as significant economic powers. Notable in the accomplishments of these countries are consistent and rapid increase in the level of industrialization, particularly in high technology and in the application of high technology to traditional industry. **Peter John Marcotullio**, University of Tokyo, describes, the functional niche within the regional city system has forced cities to differentiate in terms of their economic activities, which has impacted their urban form. Transfers of technologies and information through trade and investment have benefited recipients and have also “compressed” or “telescoped” development, sped-up national urbanization rates and created new types of environmental challenge through overlapping sets of environmental problems. Further, these impacts have been mediated differently

by a variety of national and local policies. Together, this bundle of influences is creating an assortment of urban forms and environmental conditions within cities in the region. The results cast doubt on whether the physical forms of or environment conditions within cities currently at different development levels are converging.

Current data on the urban slum population are sparse with 2007 data estimates for only 4 Asian countries (none in the Pacific). The last reasonably full set of available data (2005) contains estimates for 15 Asian countries (none in the Pacific). Based on 2005 data, the Asian and Pacific urban slum population exceeded 25% of the total urban population for 14 countries (all countries with available data with the exception of Turkey with 16%). As compared to 1990, 10 of the 15 countries with available data experienced declines in the percentage of the urban population living in slums. The comparison between years should be made with some caution, as cities and towns develop and land prices increase, slum dwellers may be driven out from the inner city, re-emerging in the urban periphery, beyond municipal boundaries. Those beyond municipal boundaries may not appear in official urban statistics.

In 2005, more than 30% of all urban residents in the two most populous Asia-Pacific countries, India and China, lived in slums. In China the proportion of the slum-dwelling urban population was 31% while in India that proportion was 32%.



**Figure— Urban Slum Population - Countries in Asia and the Pacific, 2005**

Source : UN ESCAP ( 2011 ) Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the

In 2005 the region was home to more than half the world's total slum population or about 581 million people. Most of slum dwellers in southern Asia, 63% or at least 170 million people reside in **India**. 90% or 195 million people of eastern Asia slum dwellers live in **China**. **Bangladesh** was home to 30 million slum dwellers in 2001 and 85% of its urban population lived in poverty that year. 74% of **Pakistan** urban population lived in poverty in 2001 ,more than 35 million people. The process of urbanization in **China** is on increase since economic reforms in 1978 The urbanization rate increased from 17.9% in 1978 to 43.9% in 2006, and by turn of 21<sup>st</sup> century it is expected to cross 90%.The migration from rural to urban has significantly increased during last 30 years, putting considerable strain on cities and towns. China has a new urban and rural

planning act, 2008 which is very recent one under which master plans are prepared, named as tier one intervention and detailed plans as tier two.

The evaluation studies of some earlier exercises of master plans in **China** which however have been drafted since 1970 one way or the other, have pointed out that though plans have done well in controlling development, have followed the principles of sustainability, embodied the balance of economy, improved the city's image by strict control of the green space and scenic reserves. However, cities face new challenges under rapid urbanization that comes with the improvement of its market economy system. Experts feel that the involvement of private sector in provision of public facilities may not be without problems but is being explored. **Fulongwu in China's emerging cities –the making of new urbanism**, says that urban planning as modern profession in china today is inextricably linked to the national goal of market –oriented economic development based on western inspired definition of '**modernization**' and decentralized fiscal power. This opinion reflects the same concern as is enshrined in **UNESCO'S** universal declaration on cultural diversity followed by convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expression ,wherein culture has been recognized as a fourth pillar of sustainable development besides economic viability, social equity ,and environmentally responsibility.. Modernization, the vision scripted in the western technological civilization as if universal and obvious Legitimizes western values and delegitimises alternative value system leading to global cultural asymmetry between the west and the rest (**Aseniero 1985 and Banuri 1990**) **China** is also deliberating on conflicting situations emerging in peri-urban spaces/ urban fringes. Significance of property rights is important and determines whether the desired urban form will become feasible in complex land ownership/ such situations. Rural **collective ownership** is vested in agricultural village governments supposedly answerable to all the villagers but often able to act with impunity. Village govts of urban fringe may sell land use rights to adjacent urban govts in the established development zones on the village land and transfer the rights to developers. Says **Fulongwu**. China has a mature urban planning regime that emphasizes the systematic redevelopment of run down areas in a way that is consistent with long range plans for land use and transportation. In all cities head of urban planning directly reports to mayor, **says MGI report**

In most developing countries globalization impact vary greatly in extent and intensity over time, spatially,within cities and between cultures. The concept of privatization of, services and infrastructure is a reality. Urban planning will be required to orient itself to this new scenario, and at the same time evolve a mechanism so that the planning process can itself be localized benefiting the vast majority of populations who have remained marginal and outside its net of benefits. **Bhutan** has adopted a separate route to development, by denying to accept the concept of **gross national product** as a measure of economic growth and are promoting the concept of **gross national happiness**. This concept was initiated in 1972, when the word sustainable development was first coined by the world community—Bruntland commission. The corner stone of this policy is simple ----sustainable and equitable socio –economic development, conservation of environment, preservation and promotion of culture, and promotion of good governance. A large commercial and industrial ventures are refused, if it requires any compromise with environment and yet significant progress has been made by Bhutan over last 40 yrs.Are culturally determined pathways possible for economic development,in an era of globlisation? If so will the urban and rural planning process and theory have a different flavour in Bhutan. Yes, it has succeeded in many ways.The indicators of happiness are being debated and western world is looking at it with great interest.

**Thailand's** policy for decreasing slum growth, had a strong impact when it was implemented before 1990's. The main reason behind Thailand's ability to reduce slum growth are strong political commitment by its leadership accompanied by a tradition of **strategic planning** and monitoring development efforts, which have been an integral part of development tradition for the last 30 years. **Cambodia** has also initiated slum prevention policies recently. In **Jordan** slums have grown at the rate of 3.4% per year and **Lebanon** has also experienced an increase in slum population. Slum growth in **turkey** declined radically between 1991 to 2001, from 23.3% to 17.9% primarily because of effective policy decentralization which empowered the municipal govts to borrow from international financial institutions to build or upgrade water and sanitation networks. This demonstrates that urban planning and municipal governance are two sides of the same coin. The criticism often levied on urban planning reflects our failure in urban management, which demands an awareness beyond urban planning.

There is a growing recognition among Asia-pacific countries and international agencies that what they term "slums" are actually centers of economic innovations and dynamism and (more) affordable homes for most of the city's low income population, their interest wishes to improving conditions in them (and working with their inhabitants to do so) rather than seeking to eradicate them. We know that people living in slums are essential and inseparable part of urban society.

**Australia** is the most urbanized society in the world. Continued population growth in cities is placing considerable strain on infrastructure such as public transport, and roadways, energy, air, and water systems within the urban environment. Urban planning in Australia has evolved since British colonial settlements (1788-1901). Sustainability, water sensitive urban design, urban renewal and consolidation, climate change, heritage and conservation, community participation, integration of land use and public transport have been the focus area of urban planning. **David Rita** in **continent without slums** writes Australia does not suffer from problems of over populations in any kind of way equivalent to the rest of the world now, but **Australia's** ecological footprint was found to be around 7.8 global hectares, roughly 2.8 times the planetary average and well in excess of the 2.1 figure which is about what the planet can regenerate on an annual basis. Gains on one front but loses on another front. Urban planners will have to reconcile with this.

This brings us to larger issues of ecological footprint and global poverty. Some of the Asian countries are also crossing the ecological footprint, along with **North America** and **Europe**. Global poverty at the same time indicates, 50% of global population earns less than 2.5 dollars a day and 80% earn 10 dollars a day. Cities occupy just 2 % of the earth's surface, yet the inhabitants already consume 75% of the planet's natural resources of goods and services and 50% of global carbon dioxide emissions originate in towns and cities. At the global level the 20% of the world's populations living in developed countries account for 46.4% of global green house gas emissions, while the 80% of the world populations living in developing countries account for remaining 53.6%. US with less than 5% of global population generates 20% of carbon dioxide emissions.

In 2006, the world's cities generated an estimated 67% of primary energy demand and 71% of energy-related global greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>2</sup> A regional breakdown for Asia and the Pacific is unfortunately not available. However, another study estimates that China's largest 35 cities contributed 40% of its energy-related carbon dioxide emissions.<sup>3</sup> Based on a 2007 report, Asia and the Pacific untreated solid wastes contribute as much as 75 billion tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere every year; another indication of cities' significant contributions to greenhouse gas emissions. While the per capita carbon footprints in Asian and Pacific developing countries remain relatively low compared with those of developed countries, they are

growing rapidly. As cities account for most such emissions, within a country the per capita urban carbon footprint is likely to be much higher than the per capita national-level carbon footprints.

Cities both contribute to climate change and are also directly affected by climate change. An estimated 54% of the Asian and Pacific urban population lives in low-lying coastal zones.<sup>5</sup> Cities in coastal deltas such as Dhaka, Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City, Jakarta, Kolkata, Shanghai and Manila, among others, are highly vulnerable to sea-level rises, storm-water surges and flooding. In addition to the direct impacts of climate change, cities are also affected by climate-change-related impacts in rural areas such as floods, droughts, desertification and soil erosion, which increase food insecurity in cities and provide another “push” factor for rural-to-urban migration. Although the poor contribute the least to climate change, they can be expected to suffer the most from the negative impacts, whether they live in urban or rural areas.

China with 17% of global population generates 21% and India with 17% of world populations is generating 5% of carbon dioxide emissions. Urban planners have to reduce the ecological footprint by reducing the consumption of land, energy and water through eco-sensitive approaches. **Australia, China and India** shall have to demonstrate the effectiveness of implementations of climate change agenda for its cities and take the lead role in Asia –pacific region.

Rapid industrialization in **Japan** has led to urban growth and development of public transportation, electric trains and streetcars, has dominated the urban planning process. Housing shortage was felt and major railway companies were encouraged to contribute towards housing developments. Urban planning has centered around land use zoning, urban building law, public facilities designation, building line system, and land readjustment system (part of private land as public spaces). New industrial cities established around 1995 lead to growing environmental crises. Japanese describe their cities as better than western models, as they are arranged around large plaza, inside city offers employment, and outside cities –residences. Japanese also believe that European cities reflect contrast with nature, nature and cities are two opposite concepts, but Japanese cities are like villages that have grown naturally from the power of nature – body of organism-no urban structure. They believe that their unique culture believes in oneness of humanity and nature. There is also a considerable debate within **Japan** as to the precise nature and extent of their own urban problems. Some Japanese planners see population issues in the metropolitan areas due to decentralization policies as a good thing, easing urban problems caused by over concentration and opportunities to strengthen the economies of non-metropolitan areas. However, some cities which equate growth with progress view such losses as a disadvantage even if they may help to relieve some of the current pressures on land, transport, and urban facilities. **Says Iermy Alden- some strengths and weaknesses in Japanese urban planning.**

Over half of total energy in urban areas is now related in some way to its spatial structure-that is to the relative location of homes, job and shopping sites according to **Susan Owens at Cambridge university**. Against this hypotheses a study conducted by **Dakal** while examining energy use, carbon dioxide emissions in four Asian cities that is **Beijing, Seoul, Shenghai**, and **Tokyo** has concluded that the Tokyo, wealthiest city has considerably lower emissions than two Chinese cities assessed. Houston has a modal split in favour of public transport+cycling+walking and is contributing 5690 kg carbon dioxide per capita per year against Tokyo which has 68% in favour of public transport+cycling+walking and contributes only 818 kg per capita per year. This also demonstrates that there is not an inevitable relationship between increasing prosperity and increasing emissions. However this is also supported by the study conducted **Prof Lehman –University of**

**New Castle.** Hesays Asia has a unique opportunity for total urban design concepts be developed on principle of optimum density and the ideal lighting conditions with the integrations of pubic transport. He further concludes that cities need focus on urban design which should be an outcome of density, public transport, water management, solar orientation, day lighting, and construction systems. A mixed use, compact city model represents the optimum use of space and future land use. Japanese urban planners could take pride in the urbanscape of Tokyo, but planners also express another opinion that on closer examination of the high density inner areas can hardly be described as sustainable. High population densities do not necessarily mean sustainability. Urban planners will now be required to streamline these arguments on scientific basis so as to reshape the “economic cities’ to ‘ecological cities”, in coming years. **Japan** has also enacted revised city planning act in 1992 which calls for mandatory citizen participation in creating a city master plan.

Japanese planners are also advocating a planning concept which respects the mixture of urban and rural land uses, should be developed and applied to encourage an ordered growth. Farm and wooded landscape provide key ecological functions, generate visual qualities, and cultural services that help justify the continued relationship of rural and urban land use mix. Western urban planning concepts such as zoning and green belt additions have been applied to the cities to encourage controlled urban growth, but have not achieved significant success. Japan is a mountainous country, with over three quarter of land area steeply sloping. The main agriculture and urban areas crowd together in the river valleys and alluvial plains. Rapid urban growth in the 20<sup>th</sup> century was almost always in to densely settled agriculture land. As a result preservation of green spaces has long been a concern in Japanese planning. The legal planning system for green space conservation in cities developed gradually since 1910. The objective of laws have been city planning, agriculture, nature conservation, and prevention of disaster. Scenic area zoning, a landmark urban law allowed some housing development as long as green coverage was maintained and regulations followed which were more restrictive than other zones. This was done to avoid compensations for loss of development rights. 85000 hectares in 108 cities is designated as scenic areas.

**Korea,** has undertaken focused reforms of planning controls for an urban-rural continuum. National land planning law 2002, introduced a unitary planning control system for the urban-rural continuum and also coined many concepts related to urban growth management techniques such as adequate public facility requirements, phased development, fiscal impact fee, development permit, and land suitability analysis. Simple terms –no plan no development. This was an out come of realization of devastating effects in rural areas and more so in urban fringes. Rural areas have enjoyed relative freedom and have consequently paid for this freedom in unplanned development comments an **Expert**. The British experiment of provision of green belts was also provided in cities and since it crossed jurisdiction of many boundaries of local administration, the same became a point of conflict. Rural land use controls for the protection of agricultural land were established under two categories within national land use and management law: the exclusive agriculture –forest areas and semi agriculture –forest areas This was equivalent to city planning area controls. These rural land use controls designated area as semi-urban area, semi-agricultural and forest area, exclusive agriculture and forest area, and natural conservation area. **Turkey** has been facing earthquakes since 1992 and believes very strongly that land use planning can serve as a useful instrument for mitigating the extent of disaster damage if it is part of appropriate planning system.

Land use pattern in three cities of **Jakarta**, **Bankok** and **Manila** were examined from the point of view of mixed urban and agriculture land use. It showed that the three cities were at different stages of urbanization. Jakarta had entered a sub – urbanization stage, Metro Manila analysis of spatial pattern revealed areas of mixed land use within and around the city. Bankok showed the mixed land use shifting outwards as urbanization proceeds. These findings indicate that planning concepts need to respect the vernacular landscape of each Asian mega cities as well as its stage of urbanization.

By 2008, an estimated 340 million people already lived in urban **India**, representing nearly 30% of the total population. Further, **Mckinsey globalinstitute**, projects that the population of Indian cities will increase to 590 million—40% of India's total population, witnessing an urban transformation, the scale and speed of which has not happened in the world except china. Thirty cities will have a population of more than 4 million inhabitants and cities in India will contribute 70% of India's GDP in 2030. Slums account for around 24% of urban population and essential city infrastructure is under considerable stress. Experts have voiced a concern that in spite of impressive record of economic growth, the incidence of urban poverty has not accelerated with GDP growth. In fact urban poverty will become a major challenge for policy makers in India as the urban population in the country is growing, so is urban poverty.

Urban planning in India is greatly inspired initially by Petrik Geddes and subsequently by town and country planning act of UK 1947 and the first master plan of Delhi 1961-62, paved the way for other cities to initiate similar exercises, after putting in place state town planning acts. Master plans did make an impact in regulating the growth of cities to some extent. However, hardly around 1200 master plans were completed or are in stages of completion against the requirement of 4000 cities. **Regional Planning** was limited to metropolitan region as some city grew in to **city regions** and was also extended to some regions which were identified as resource regions for spreading economic development. However, implementation of the same left much to be desired. India with the vast population spread out in various ecological regions, with unique cultural diversity, with varying stages of economic development requires new and innovative regional planning approaches to sustain the growing urbanization in line with the environmental resource. Mushrooming of squatter settlements and slums in cities have led to the criticism of master planning for not being pro urban poor.

## **7.0 An Indian Perspective of Urban and Rural Planning and Management**

India's rich cultural heritage as seen in its historical cities has remained as the focus area for planners for a long time. There is an emerging view point that this legacy cannot be ignored. Apart from improving the infrastructural status and make them more livable there is also a need to evolve a more social and human approach linking conservation with human welfare so as to achieve sustainable revitalization. The inner cities in India reflect a mix of traditional architecture and vibrant community open spaces and structures, representing several layers of history. There is a consensus that these areas need a special treatment and must be handled with a sensitive approach.

Urbanization does not take place in vacuum. It is the current status of rural hinterland with its natural and cultural endowments, which can pay way for sustainable cities. There is a consensus emerging on the fact that rural development with the focus on employment generation, watershed management, development and protection of water resources is critical for the subsequent urbanization. Towards this direction **district development vision plans** for next 30 years are being considered as important tool for guided urban



development. In addition to this Govt. of India has also formulated a central sponsored scheme known as “**provision of urban amenities in rural areas**” (**PURA**). The scheme envisages Public Private Partnership for the development of growth centres within rural hinterland which would offer a new direction of growth of the existing settlements and also help in generating employment within the region itself.

Government of India has also formulated “**National Mission for Sustainable Habitat**” with the focus on energy efficiency in buildings, management of solid waste and modal shift to public transport. The mission will promote energy efficiency as an integral component of urban planning and urban renewal. Integration of transport/mobility with land use will remain the most important challenge for urban planners in India. India is also confronted with the waste disposal, as well as water management which is now becoming the limited factor to the development of urban centres. Some Planner believes that cities are promoting water intensive development which needs to be re-examined. Requirement of aquifers for recharging may put severe restrictions on the future expansion of the cities. And at the same time large number of wetlands has been encroached upon. Waste disposal on city peripheries have compelled people living in surrounding rural areas to voice their opinion for not using their lands for dumping of wastes. **Integrated rural and urban development** is therefore, not a luxury but a dire need to over come all the above problems so that sustainable cities can be promoted.

Government of India has formulated **national urban housing and habitat policy 2007**.The policy seeks to use the perspective of regional planning as brought out in the 74<sup>th</sup> amendment act in terms of preparation of district plans by district planning committee and metropolitan plans by metropolitan planning committees as a vital determinant of systematic urban planning. The policy seeks to promote a symbiotic development of rural and urban areas. In this regard, the policy seeks to ensure refinement of town and country planning acts and their effective implementation. The core focus of this policy is on **affordable housing for all** with special emphasis on vulnerable sections and urban poor.

Government of India also launched a mission program in 2005 with a focus on improvement of urban infrastructure and provision of housing for urban poor in selected cities known as Jawaharlal Nehru urban renewal mission (**JNNURM**). This was also supported by **urban reform agenda** for improving the effectiveness of urban local bodies including their financial health. The function of urban planning has been devolved to urban local bodies by way of 74<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment. The mission has helped to focus attention of the decision makers and professionals. The **city development plans** were prepared for mission cities which were essentially vision documents highlighting the investment requirements for the plan period. The mission has also brought to surface the need for capacity building for plan preparation and implementation.

Government of India has also initiated a centrally sponsored scheme called **RajivAwasYozna** under which it is proposed to make Indian cities slum free. The programme envisages a mixed bag of funding from central govt, and state govt including urban local bodies. Land as a resource is also being tried to generate funds to meet the cost of the project. Involvement of private sector and civil society is being contemplated in a big way. Considerable stress is being laid on using GIS for mapping and data generation. Outlay is also earmarked for capacity building for municipal functionaries for project formulation and implementation.

Urban Planning is being revisited and the urban governance section in UN-Habitat is deliberating on urban planning and its relevance. What are the new approaches? Do they work? Does master plan still work?

What are the advantages of strategic planning? How has urban planning responded to increasing diversity and multiculturalism in cities? Does it simply control diversity or accommodate or actually encourage it? Report UN-Habitat. **Planning Sustainable Cities :Global report on Human Settlement 2009** by Un Habitat highlights that there is now a realization, in many parts of the World, that urban planning systems have changed very little and are often contributors to urban problems rather than functioning as tools for human and environmental improvement, the issues are –

- The environmental challenges of climate change and cities excessive dependence on fossil fuel powered cars
- The demographic challenges of rapid urbanization, rapid growth of small and medium sized towns, and an expanding youth population in developing nations, and in developed nations, the challenge of shrinking cities, ageing and the increasing multicultural composition of cities.
- The economic challenges of uncertain future growth and fundamental doubts about market led approaches that the current global financial crises have engendered as well as increasing informality in urban activities.
- Increasing Socio-- spatial challenges, especially social and spatial inequalities, urban sprawl and unplanned peri --urbanization.
- The challenges and opportunities of increasing democratization of decision making as well as increasing awareness of social and economic rights among ordinary people.

The **report** further elaborates, that however, some innovative concepts/approaches in urban planning have been adopted such as **strategic spatial planning, new land regularization and management approaches, participatory processing and partnerships, planning for new and more sustainable spatial forms such as compact cities and new urbanism**. However, in many developing countries older forms of master planning have persisted which has failed in accommodating the poor and through the existence of informal cities, socio spatial marginalization is the outcome.

There are number of key messages emerging from the global report which would help finding the new role for urban planning to achieve sustainable urban development. It has been recognized that the global economic crisis have exposed the limit of private sector in terms of its **resilience** and future growth as well as the ability of the **market to solve most urban problems**. Governments need to increasingly take as a more central role in cities and towns in order to lead development initiatives and ensure that basic needs are met and urban planning has an immense role to play. Countries therefore, need to develop overall **national urban strategies**. Urban Planning needs to be **institutionally located** in a way that allows it to play a role in creating urban investment and livelihood opportunities through responsive and collaborative processes. The urban planning system as is adopted must allow and encourage active participation, and all the participatory processes shall be oriented in a way so as to influence plann preparation and decision making. Mechanisms are also required to be evolved for socially marginalized groups to have voice, in both representative politics and participatory planning process. **The Global report** also identifies a number of promising trends for bridging the **green and brown agendas**, which includes, **development of sustainable energy, improvement of eco-efficiencies** by way of use of waste product, sustainable transport in order to reduce adverse environmental impacts and **development of cities without slums**. The report also highlights an important

message of improving the quality of **planning education** with the focus on promotion of social equity as well as sustainability.

Parallel to above efforts, since first social forum in 2001, attempt was being made by non governmental organizations, professional associations, forums, and national and international civil society networks, committed to social struggle for just, democratic, humane, and sustainable cities by way of drafting a **world charter for the right to the city**. The charter aims to gather the commitments and measures that must be assumed by civil society, local and national governments, members of parliament, and international organizations, so that all people may live with dignity in our cities. This was then discussed in world urban forum in 2004 and again in world social forum in 2005. **Rights to work** and **Rights to housing** may have significant impact on urban planning process which needs to be assessed. Is Asia—pacific region ready for this?

### **8.0 Towards Resolution of Issues – Varying Perceptions**

Urban planners spend considerable time and energy over time to seek convergence towards environmental protection, towards economic development and third important goal of planning i.e. social equity. Instead they get caught up in the tension generated among these three fundamental aims, which collectively I call 'Planners Triangle' and through sustained period of confronting planners try to resolve the conflicts. To do so planners have to redefine "**sustainability**", since its current formulations romanticizes over sustainable part and is too vaguely holistic. Planners would benefit both from integrating social theory with environmental thinking and from combining their substantive skills with techniques for community conflict resolution, to confront economic and environmental injustice – **says Scot Cambell** in Urban Planning and contradiction of sustainable development.

**Ronald McGill** in his paper on urban development in developing countries analyzing the contribution on the subject by (**Stren, 1993, Mattingly, 1994, Werna 19950,**) that urban management should be driven by the lowest level of Competent Government. Urban management seems to have twin objective first to "Plan" to provide and maintain cities infrastructure and services and second to make sure that the cities government is in a fit state, organizationally and financially, to ensure the provision and maintenance. There are emerging concepts in favour of land use planning in sustainable rural systems.

**30"Hubert N Van lier"** mentions in his recent paper, rural infrastructure is replaced with "ecological networks:" which can be protected through spatial concepts, with the introduction of new phenomenon in land development policies: that of "**rural renewing**". Therefore it is becoming increasingly clear that a holistic view needs to be taken of urban and rural entities wherein the concepts of eco- cities could take shape which would fully harness the benefits of ecological system. Urban environment which includes the rural hinterland could be seen as a **system** wherein the efficiency of resource flows is maintained by way of integrated infrastructure development say the **report on Eco—cities by World bank and AusAID**

**9.0 There are immense challenges for the planners in the Asia --Pacific Region particularly for the development of inclusive cities with the focus on urban poor, making cities pedestrian and public transport friendly, defining a role and relevance of city planning in an areas of increasing privatization, competitiveness, economy driven cities, balancing between private benefits vs social costs and social benefits vs private cost and evolving a city urban form, capable to incorporate flexible spatial planning so**

as to make way for ever changing technologies, transport and business, and reduction of GHG emissions. Can there be one uniform planning process for all the countries or there would be a series of solutions to the planning process and theory, reflecting the local cultural ethos and experiences. It is with this in mind that the seminar on Urban and Rural Planning and Management, for Asia --Pacific Region has been organized. We are sure that the deliberations during two days would lead to recommendations which will pave the way for the development of sustainable cities in the Asia – pacific region and else where in the world .

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The Theme Paper has been prepared by Mr Ramesh K Safaya, (Architect, Urban Designer and Town Planner) Former Executive Director, Housing and Urban Development Corporation, Delhi. Statistical details for Asia Pacific Region have been sourced from <http://www.unescap.org/stat/data/syb2011/I-People/Urbanization.asp> UN ESCAP (2011) **Statistical Yearbook for Asia and thePacific.**