

8th Invention to Innovation Summit – Punjab



Riphah Institute of Public Policy – Riphah International University Islamabad organized a technical policy session on “Urban Policy Development; Multiple Nuclei Model for Pakistan” on 3rd April 2019 at University of Punjab, Lahore.

Introduction:

Urbanization is a central fact of modern life having a potential to escort in a new era of well-being, resource efficiency and economic growth therefore forces a human to rapidly becoming an urban species. In the past two centuries, urbanization has advanced steadily causes an urban sprawl over large amount of lands especially in marginal areas of some metropolises thus develops a unique set of issues and challenges to both humans and environment. However, in many metropolitan areas urban sprawl also results from a desire for increased living space and other residential amenities.

Considering this raising issue Riphah Institute of Public Policy (RIPP) organized a technical policy session on **“Urban Policy Development; Multiple Nuclei Model for Pakistan”** and the outcome of this session is to formulate a consensus oriented Urban National Policy Framework for the country.

Objectives of the Session:

- To provide a platform to the urban development stakeholders to exchange their expertise and views on urban development.
- To identify the key interventions to address the challenges due to urbanization.
- To enhance collaboration between urban planning authorities, private sector and donors for holistic urban development approach.
- Develop an effective institutional framework to promote sustainable urban development.
- Develop a consensus oriented Urban National Policy Framework.

Guest Speakers

- **Mr. Mushtaq Mughal**
 - Deputy Mayor, Metropolitan Corporation Lahore
- **Dr. Rashid Aftab**
 - Director RIPP
- **Engr Zamir A. Soomro**
 - Regional Director, PCRWR
- **Dr. Atif Bilal Aslam**
 - Department of City & Regional Planning, UET Lahore
- **Syed Nadeem Akhtar Zaidi**
 - Incharge, Chief Town Planner – Lahore Development Authority
- **Mr. Hammad**
 - Lecturer, UMT Lahore



Mushtaq Mughal:

Lahore is not just all about bricks and mortar but it is an alive pulsating city, rich with its own flavor of colorful festivals, traditions deeply influenced by the indomitable generous and hospitable spirit of the laborites. Provision of clean and safe drinking water to the citizens is one of the major challenges of rapid urbanization and is the top most priority of Metropolitan Corporation Lahore (MCL) thus every effort is being done to accomplish this task.

Frequent traffic jams, increasing air pollution levels, encroachments, unplanned commercialization and expansion of Lahore are some of the other major problems of the provincial metropolis. Slow moving traffic is a basic problem behind traffic jams especially in busy commercial centers of the city and MCL is soon going to start registration of all kinds of horse/donkey-carts to regulate them. MCL is also planning to launch a public awareness drive for motorists. Restoration, renovation and repair of city's heritage is also one of our priorities and will do every effort to boost the standard of living in the provincial metropolis.

Rashid Aftab:

Urbanization is a global phenomenon and in Pakistan it is expected to reach 50% by 2030. He enlighten the emerging trend & challenges of urbanization in Pakistan and gave possible solutions for sustainable urban Pakistan. Urban ecology is an interrelated ecosystem of an environment, urban technical system and society. Urban areas contains economic development & high quality of life by excelling in multiple areas like infrastructure, living, environment for its people. A smart city concept may be incorporated in our cities that incorporates

information and communication technologies to enhance the quality and performance of urban services.

Engr. Zamir Ahmed Somroo:

The Government of Punjab has tried to meet the increasing demand of livelihood by setting up industries, making infrastructural developments and what not, however, the most important aspect of life is still being ignored by the authorities — underground water. Underground water is consumed not only by every household but also in many industries located in and adjacent to Lahore. In 2017, the World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF-Pakistan) in collaboration with the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) and the Irrigation Research Institute (IRI), conducted its fifth session under a project titled International Labor and Environmental Standards (ILES) implementation in Pakistan's Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The reports shared in the fifth session, showed that the [groundwater level](#) is declining in Lahore with a depletion rate of approximately 2.5 to 3.0 feet per year.

The report further revealed that the water table depth in the central part of the city has fallen below 130 feet (40 meters) approximately, and is projected to drop below 230 feet (70 meters) in most areas by the end of year 2025. It was stressed in the session that if the present trend continues the situation will become even worse by 2040. It is already April 2019, and we have seen no meaningful action being taken by any of the concerned authorities.

Dr. Atif Bilal Aslam:

There is a lot of misconception related to urbanization in Pakistan. Rural-urban migration is only a contributing factor, not the whole urbanization process depends on it. Urban life style is also a contributing factor for the spread of urbanism which is very important for the debate of sustainable urban development. The policy response to tackle urbanization has mainly been focused on migratory aspects in past. For long it has mainly been conceived as a problem, though opportunities exist as well. The ecological footprint of Netherland is fifteen times higher than the geographic areas it occupies. Owning the lifestyle of Canadians or the people of Hong Kong, we need 3 earths to support that urban lifestyle. Developed world is almost reaching to saturation levels, it is the developing world which is facing rapid urbanization as a means towards development. Mega cities like Karachi, Lahore has transformed into polycentric regions while other large/secondary cities have been transformed into multiple nuclei cities. The foremost challenge for Urban Pakistan is no urban boundaries. Understanding different boundaries for a same city which could coincide with administrative/local governance boundaries include; city proper, urban agglomeration, metropolitan area. Current local government system does not support urban boundaries. If to continue with the same local government system, large cities boundaries should coincide with the urban agglomeration boundaries.

Syed Nadeem Akhtar Zaidi:

LDA is people-friendly principal planning and development department of the Lahore Metropolis, aims at providing and continuously improving metropolis-wide development works, facilities and services of acceptable standards to all

without let or favor. LDA attempts to turn Lahore into an "attainable city" with combined support of people, private sector and different level of the Government, where overwhelming majority enjoys convenient, healthful and satisfied living. Our targets for the integrated and sustainable development of the city include quality housing, provision of low cost housing, and rehabilitation of underdeveloped areas, maintain natural and aesthetic beauty of the city.

Mr. Hamid

The current World is moving forward with competition in quality and excellence. It is not isolated. It is, day by day, coming more and more, closer to one another, particularly in the field of architectural design, planning, sustainability and technological developments. Best leadership in the fields of the built environment; particularly in the development, management and innovation in the fields of architecture, urban planning and related specializations and sub-specializations is the need of hour.

Conclusion:

Pakistan is, undoubtedly, rapidly urbanizing but urbanism is spreading even more quickly, thereby transforming the country's social structure as well as the settlement system. Rate of urbanization has ranged between 4.9 to 6.5 percent per year over the past 40 years. Like the most Third World (TW) countries, Pakistan is besieged by urban problems, namely acute shortages of housing, huge shortfalls in the provision of water supply, sewers, drainage, waste disposal, traffic management, electricity, transport, pollution control, congested

and sprawled-out cities, ill-managed land market and inefficient land use systems, and wide social disparities in the quality of life of the poor and the rich, etc. A large part of urban problems arise from inadequacies and inequities in the provision of public goods, community services and facilities. Therefore, urban policies are often assessed by criteria of relevance and effectiveness of various measures from a community welfare perspective. A few authorities are involved in working on sustaining groundwater including the Lahore Development Authority, the Water and Sanitation Agency, the Metropolitan Corporation Lahore and the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources. Despite having systematic bodies, we do not have any solid plan to conserve groundwater for future generations. Need for a 3-tier urban policy corresponding to metropolitan cities (metropolitan corporations), secondary cities (municipal corporations), and small cities (municipal committees).

Way Forward

- A consensus oriented Urban National Policy Framework has to be developed for sustainable development.
- A shift from 'supply driven' policies to 'demand reduction' policies is needed.
- The use of instruments for integrated urban planning and sustainability impact assessment (SIA) should be mandatory at national and local levels.
- National and local standards for building and infrastructure should encourage and incentivize the development of contemporary technological solutions that are based on traditional principles and local skills and materials.

- Urban development projects should be charged a transport levy which can finance restricted parking facilities and public transport.
- Maintenance and renovation of existing buildings should become a key business sector, where innovative solutions are incentivized.
- Cities and metropolitan regions should establish energy information offices to give locally appropriate advice to both municipal departments, private companies and citizens.
- Good governance can be a proficient approach towards sustainable urban development, which demands accountability, coordination, decentralization, transparency and effective participation.
- Banning the residential development outside urban boundaries (once identified) in favor of infill/compact development.

Session Glimpse



