

'CITIES BEYOND CITY'

2nd International Conference of Urban and Regional Planning held at NED University

Report by: Farida G, Saadia Bano and Rabiya Asim

"The extraordinary growth of cities in poor countries, whether vertically or horizontally, is the leading factor of its death in terms of city management", cautioned by Mr. Fahim Zaman Khan, keynote speaker at second International Conference on Urban & Regional Planning organized by the Department of Architecture & Planning NED University, Karachi on 27-28 April 2018.

The second International Conference of Urban and Regional Planning, DAP, NED University is a bench mark of expanding legacy of 12 years of scholarly seminars in the field of urban and regional planning. Since, 2017 the series of seminar was upgraded to two day international conference on emerging issues, evolving concepts and new body of knowledge. The 1st international conference revolved around the theme of Urban Resilience and Adaptation. This year the theme of 2nd international CURP; was focusing on impacts of rapid urbanization, which is giving rise to extension of city at its fringes via profit orientation developers.

The Conference commenced with welcome address by Prof. Dr. Anila Naeem, Chairperson Department of Architecture & Planning. Dr. Anila highlighted the department's achievements and its continuing efforts in providing such intellectual forums. She informed the audience that from over 28 abstracts received in response to call for papers this year, 15 were shortlisted by the Scientific Committee for inviting full paper submission. The conference program included twelve papers/ presentations along with participation of over ten invited panelists –experts from the field, she hoped for wide attendance and participation from a diverse range of professionals and stakeholders.

Speaking on the occasion as keynote speaker, the former Administrator Karachi Mr. Zaman said that Illegality in allotment of land and halt in the *goth* regularization is the key factor involved in massive rise of mega high income group housing and land speculation. The incredible expansion of Baharia Town Karachi is not a solution to housing issues but in fact, it is drastically tilting the balancing pivot to massive consumption of resources especially, water. He reinforced that rising issue of land corruption is an alarming signal for everyone to raise their voice and agitate for rights.

Mr. Tasneem Ahmed Siddiqui, Chairman Saaiban and the Chief Guest on the occasion shared his experiences with the audience. He claimed that the rapidly increasing urbanization is the most triggering factor for emergent urban policy. According to him, the key factors behind the non-compliance of previously demarcated urban policies are the lack of implementation and

governance. He also pinned point the static role of professionals and general public in term of rising voice against any misconduct in urban fabric.



Inaugural Session: (L to R) Prof. Dr. Anila Naeem, Dr. Mansoor Ali, Kamil Khan Mumtaz, Tasneem Ahmed Siddiqui and Dr. Sarosh Hashmat Lodi



Panel Discussion: (L to R) Roland deSouza, Arif Hasan, Dr. Suneela Ahmed, Dr. Mansoor Ali and Kamil Khan Mumtaz



On the Day 1 at inaugural session, Dr. Mansoor Ali from Loughborough University, UK presented the Conference theme address. He stated that, *“In this era of fast changing urbanization, our perception about how cities are managed and should be managed has not changed enough especially on those “sub-function cities”, which we can call “cities within and beyond city”.*

Followed by theme address, the veteran Architect and Founder President of Anjuman-i-Mimaran Lahore, Kamil Khan Mumtaz, presented his paper on “National Urban Policy” in Pakistan. Mr. Mumtaz summarized draft Urban Policy Report formulated in 2013/2014 for the Climate Change Division and UN –Habitat Pakistan. The objective of this report was to develop the urban areas into sustainable, livable and well managed engines of economic growth.

Both presentations were duly discussed at a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Suneela Ahmed. The panelists Arif Hasan and Roland deSouza highlighted that ever rising human needs and desires is the major reason of destruction of natural ambience. deSouza stated the less consumption is directly proportionated to lesser destruction. According to Arif Hassan, people can join hands together to stop the transgressions happening in city.

Dr. Sarosh Lodi, Vice Chancellor, NED University, in his presiding remarks, appreciated the efforts of Department of Architecture and Planning for conducting scholarly discourse in a regular manner.

On the Day 2 at 1st Technical Session, Architect Abd Muluk bin Abd Manan who is PhD candidate at Universiti Kebangsaan, Malaysia presented his paper. This paper examined the reasons and also explored how stakeholders in Kampong Bharuch, a traditional urban village in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia have been involved in recent redevelopment efforts.



Technical Session-I: (L to R) Fahim Zaman Khan, Abd Muluk, Maria Aslam and Hira Qureshi



Panel Discussion: (L to R) Fazal Noor, Dr. Nausheen H Anwar, Masooma Mohib Shakir, Hira Qureshi, Abd Muluk and Maria Aslam



The village, Kampong Baru, has a lot in common with Karachi's Saddar, which is why it was found as an excellent case study for anyone who wants to know what **not** to do to a heritage site in the middle of a city that is growing vertically.

The next paper was read by Architect Maria Aslam, Chief Editor ADA (Architecture Design Art). She discussed the development of Karachi's both the tangible and intangible boundaries and the messages they convey on contextual, cultural, environmental and Architectural levels. The paper questioned their nature, validity meaning and physicality in a world today that is porous, boundary less and virtual.

Third paper of the session was presented by a faculty member of Sir Syed University, Architect Hira Qureshi who critically analyzed the claim of DHA City, as the sustainable gated community based on the indicators of sustainability formed through literature review.

Moderated by Masooma Mohib Shakir, all three presentations engaged audience at a panel discussion having Dr. Nausheen H. Anwer and Architect Fazal Noor as panelists.

At 2nd Technical Session of the Day-2, Dr. Mansoor Ali from Loughborough presented the case study of Lebanon discussing the complex dynamics of refugee population settlement, their issues regarding solid waste and its disposal. This paper was based on author's experience in this context and focused on the extent and reasons for the decline in service and reasons behind that. The paper explained various institutional complexities in the given context and what could be done to overcome this.

Next paper was presented by Architect Yasmeen Abid Maan, from Lahore College of Arts and Design University. Her research focused on historical analysis of modern colonial urbanism in Lahore with empirical comparative study of Lahore during post-colonial traditions. Punjab, declared as 'Granary of The World' was studied for overall interventions in defining morphological and administrative urban forms and their role in resource extraction with reference to natural land use, during Colonial period in sub-continent. The research concluded for entrepreneurship of land owners in a balance with local authorities through sustainable connectivity of major layers of city.

Ms. Sadaf Saeed, Phd candidate at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) presented her paper on the role of Lahore Metro Bus through the lens of urban planning. The study concluded that Metro Bus Concept is executed as a standalone mobility component in Lahore, therefore has limited benefits. It said that if Metro service were envisioned as an urban policy it could have a wider potential to Impact the urban form of the city. The other conclusion was that the project focused toward more on technical grounds rather than the socio-cultural aspects of the city.

Architect Mushtaq Ahmad from UET, Peshawar explored the effects of BRT on Peshawar's economic and cultural life. The results of the project showed that the BRT Peshawar has a lot of

negative and Positive effects on the livelihood and hence indicated that many things could be done in a better way to overcome the needs of the population.



Technical Session-II: (L to R) Dr.Mansoor Ali, Yasmin Abid Maan, Sadaf Saeed and Mushtaq Ahmad



Panel Discussion: (L to R) Khadija Jamal, Dr. Mir Shabbar Ali, Rahat Arsalan, Mushtaq Ahmad, Dr. Mansoor Ali, Yasmin Abid Maan and Sadaf Saeed



Moderated by Rahat Arsalan, the panelists Dr. Mir Shabbar Ali and Khadija Jamal Shaban pinpointed that the environmental impacts of BRT were totally overlooked and such projects have less purposeful impacts as compare to the resources, time and money they consume.

The last Technical Session commenced with the presentation made by Architect Muhammad Umair Ajmal from Aga Khan Cultural Services, Pakistan. He discussed the problem of urban sprawl and defined urban periphery and its basic components. It also suggested that a peripheral system has to be sensitively thought, planned and placed so that it acts as a barrier for the over flowing urban functions and allows careful interaction for connectivity networks.

Connected via Skype, Architect Mishele Ijaz, from Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, in her research “Growth versus Development: The Case of China-Pakistan, examined the relationship between ‘Growth’ and ‘Development’, and the issues that surface with both these terms, in the context of developing countries and with special reference to Pakistan and CPEC.

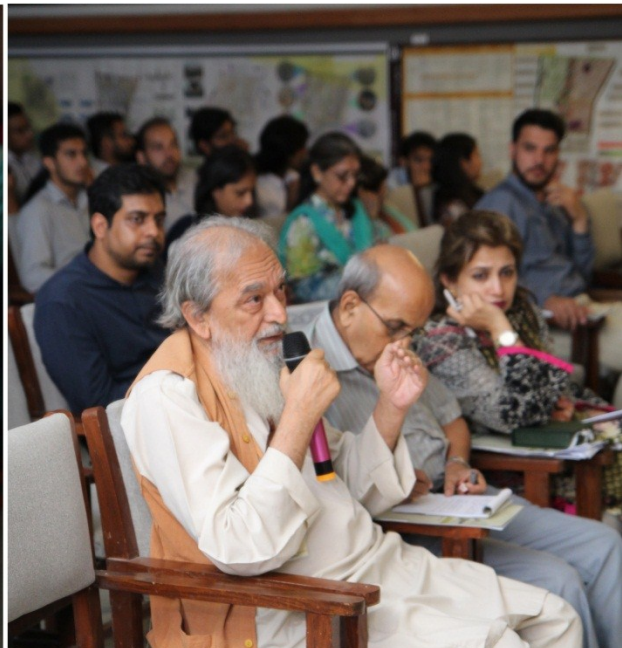
The last presentation of the conference was made by Architect Urooj Shafique, and Muhammad Tehmash Khan. They presented the case study of Abbottabad by reviewing the positive and negative impacts of gated communities on urban environment of Abbottabad.



Technical Session-III: (L to R) Muhammad Umair Ajmal, Mishele Ijaz, Urooj Shafique and Tehmash Khan



Panel Discussion: (L to R) Ejaz Ahed, Dr. Noman Ahmed, Rabela Junejo, Muhammad Umair Ajmal and Urooj Shafique



The session was moderated by Rabela Junejo. Responding on Mishele Ijaz's paper, Panelist Ar. Ejaz Ahed said, "Since we cannot beat Chinese, let's greet them". He showed his concern about the lack of accountability and documentation in CPEC. According to Mr. Ahed, mushrooming of gated community units and compound interest loan based system of investment by Chinese authorities is quite scary. He stated examples of African countries, who are suffering from huge debt because of Chinese loan system. Another Panelist Dr. Noman Ahmed stated that gated communities are breaching municipality boundaries, with missing links from infra-structure. Now land is converted into social asset to transaction-able commodity.

On Ms. Mishele Ijaz paper Dr. Ahmed commented that Pakistan is an example of security state, which is surrounded by enemies. CPEC is opportunity road way to Chinese but not exactly vice versa. He pin pointed few insensitive decisions ranging from strategic housing for Chinese to allocation of compensation land to poor fishermen to far furlong area, with no access to sea waters. Moreover, these types of decision are not solely made by Chinese authorities but also Pakistani high stakeholders/decision makers.



The audience was concerned whether re-defining urban boundaries is sustainable or not. Responding the concern, Panelist Ejaz Ahed said that that earlier cities were designed to minimize distances from work, to home or leisure place but now the situation is completely different and city travelling distances are not the major parameters for design. This peripheral expansion is cheaper for developers but in long term it may decline towards unsustainability.

All presentations made during two days were effectively summed up by Dr. Saeed uddin Ahmed who made his concluding remarks during Concluding Session. The Conference came to an end at a vote of thanks delivered by Saadia Bano, Conference Co-convenor. All presenters, panelists and session moderators were presented mementoes; designed by Naeem Iqbal and Muhammad Ali (4th year students of Architecture) whose design was selected during a competition conducted at 4th year Design Studio particularly for this Conference theme.

The 2nd International Conference was convened by Farida Abdul Ghaffar and both days' proceedings were conducted by Sarah Ather Khan with a team of students from 2nd year Architecture and Development Studies.