



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

— Margaret Mead

SHEHRI

JANUARY-MARCH 1996 Vol. 1 No. 15

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Shehri-CBE, citizens for a better environment Annual General Meeting 1996 Report

The Annual General Meeting of Shehri-CBE for the year 1996 was held at Hotel Marriott, on March 30, 1996.

It is an event when all the General Body Members of Shehri-CBE, meet and exchange their views and discuss plans and strategies for improvement.

The Annual Report, containing the details of activities conducted throughout the year 1995, was read out by the Chairperson, Mr. Qazi Faez Isa.

Shehri-CBE members were informed that the funding of the organisation was being done by Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Germany.

The Meeting was largely attended and since it was not an election year, the Manag-

ing Committee remained the same.

Activities of the Sub-Committees were read out one by one and the members in charge of these gave their verbal reports concerning the same.

1995 was a creative year in that, implementation of action plans and strategies was conducted and positive results emerged in the field of awareness, through Shehri-CBE's Newsletters, pamphlets and brochures.

The other medium of publicity were, the Seminars and Workshops held relating to environmental betterment and towards arousing the political consciousness of the citizens, in fighting for their legal rights.

After the Annual Report was read in detail, the members gave their suggestions and comments on how Shehri-CBE can work and successfully achieve its goals.

This time the members were invited to actively participate in the activities of Shehri-CBE, and work with the members of the sub-committees of their choice.

Lawyers and business people offered to come forward and give all possible assistance to the Legal Sub-Committee.

There was a call to the members to help in raising funds for Shehri-CBE.

The meeting is an annual affair and was concluded with a vote of thanks and refreshments were served.

**Minutes of the Sixth
Annual General
Meeting 1996 held
on March 30, 1996
from 3:00 p.m. to
6:00 p.m. at
Marriott Hotel,
Karachi**

AGENDA

1. To confirm the minutes of the Fourth Annual Body Meeting, which was held on February 18, 1995.
2. To adopt the Annual Reports of the activities of Shehri-CBE for the year 1995.
3. To adopt the audited statement of accounts for the period January-December 31, 1995.

Continued on page 17



From (L-R): Amber Alibhai, General Secretary; Qazi Faez Isa, Chairman; Hasan Jaffery, Vice-Chairman and Khalib Ahmed, Treasurer.



From (L-R): Hasan Jaffery, Engr. S.M.R. Zaidul Wasli, Qazi Faez Isa, M. Irfan, Navaid Husain and Saleh Saleem Memon.

SHEHRI

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Farhan Anwar
Victoria D'Souza
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SHEHRI SUB-COMMITTEES:

- i) **Anti-Pollution** -
Khateeb Ahmed
Navaid Husain
- ii) **Conservation & Heritage** -
Danish Azar Zubay
Humaira Rahman
- iii) **Media & Outreach** -
Humaira Rahman
Hassan Jaffery
- iv) **Legal** -
Qazi Faez Isa
Amber Ali Bhai
- v) **Parks & Recreation (Development)**
Khateeb Ahmed
- vi) **Fund Raiser** -
Imran Shaikh
Hasan Merchant

Sub-committee membership is open to all members of SHEHRI-CBE. Reproduction of articles is welcome provided the source is acknowledged. Views expressed herein do not necessarily express the views of the Editor/Editorial Board.

Contributions are welcome.

Interested contributors should contact the SHEHRI office for writers guidelines. SHEHRI newsletter readership is from lower, middle and upper income groups, students, professionals, environmentalists, policy makers, NGOs and other organisations.

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SHEHRI-CBE appeals to foreign and local companies to support the printing and publication of our newsletter by contributing advertisements and/or donations

For the printing of this newsletter, SHEHRI-CBE acknowledges the support of The Friedrich-Naumann Foundation

EARTH DAY

Each year Karachi American School celebrates Earth Day in April. The teachers create activities, that will empower children to improve the environment. Last year, they held a successful Walk-a-Thon on campus where students got sponsors and on Earth Day, they walked for one hour for the environment.

This year the eleven and twelve year old students built ecology learning centres for the younger children. On Earth Day every child had an Earth Day Passport which helped guide them to each centre where they learned something important about helping the environment.

Over the past two years, they had bakes sales, raffles, T-shirts sales, Earth Day sales and Walk-a-Thon. Their hard earned money has been donated to Shehri-CBE for environmental projects at the 1996 Karachi American School Earth Day.

The Principal Elementary Section Karachi American School, presented a cheque of Rs. 30,000/- to Mrs. Amber Alibhai, General Secretary, Shehri-CBE.

The two projects chosen by the Elementary Students Council were:

- 1) Composting Plant at Zoological Gardens.
- 2) Placement of garbage bins on road side.

*Courtesy Mrs. Serena Isa
Member, Shehri-CBE*



SHEHRI-CBE

*acknowledges the support of
The Friedrich-Naumann Foundation*

PERSPECTIVES ON URBAN SPACES

Excerpt One

The world's cities are growing by one million people each week. However, the stress of this rapid urban population growth is often overwhelming. The long list of afflictions includes urban poverty rates of up to 60 per cent. Despite growing investments, more than one-third of the urban population live in substandard housing. Forty per cent of urban dwellers do not have access to safe drinking water or adequate sanitation. Primarily due to rapid growth and a deteriorating urban environment, at least 100 million people in human settlements (cities, towns, and villages) already live in health and life-threatening situations, and almost 50 per cent of these are children. These concerns transcend the borders of developed and developing countries. The high rate of urban population growth in most regions has led to common problems: congestion, lack of funds to provide basic services, a shortage of adequate housing and declining infrastructure, to name a few.

UNCHS, *Habitat II* (1995)

Excerpt Two

Across the globe, the towns and cities of the third world are growing very rapidly. The farmlands cannot sustain the population. And so squatters come to the cities, living illegally on pavements, or in whatever crevices they can find. This is the most spectacular growth rate of all. Consider the case of Bombay. Twenty years ago squatters were less than 400,000 in a population of 4.5 million. Today, they are almost 4.5 million in a population of 9 million. Facts like these are going to change the images that are triggered off in our minds by the word 'city'. Today, of the dozen giant metropolis of 10 million plus, the majority are in rich industrialised countries. Thus the word 'city' conveys images of high-rise towers; automobiles and cloverleaf; and so forth.

Yet by the year 2000 [of the] about 50 cities of 15 million more than 40 will be in the third world! Most of these are cities whose images are foggy in the extreme – that is, if any image at all is conjured up by the sound of their names: Dacca, Jakarta, Bom-

bay, Canton... [They] evoke in your mind, one suspects, a great sea of people, an amorphous undifferentiated mass of humanity, on cycles and on foot, clogging the roads in all directions. Just as the icon of the mushroom cloud has dominated our consciousness in the last four decades, so this new urban image is going to be a crucial determinant of the moral issues of the next century.

Correa (1985)

Excerpt Three

Increasingly, cities (America in the vanguard) draw membranes around us tighter and tighter, screening admission with ever greater care. Whether in enclaved communities bristling with high-tech electronic protection, in shopping malls with their monoculture of shopping and their structure against free expression, or in that contracted and contained space of the body locked in numb communion with the video screen, the message we receive from the practices of urban propinquity are increasingly immobilising and paranoid. It is a message of universal sameness, the tired, dumbed-down democracy of

the global cipher, producing tawdry spaces for the communities of passivity begged by the endless (entangling chains of mediation that define modern life. If the container is a hedge against accidental or uncontrolled contamination, the redress is in the fight for intimate, plural, and malleable spaces in which differences are both invented and celebrated. The city should be the hot-house of both accident and consent, zone of experiment and site of many classes of consensual form. The task of urbanism is to help produce such fantasies: the street-corner and the neighbourhood, the row of restaurants that grew along the meandering greenway where so many of the furniture workshops are located (backing on to the canal), the slowly rotating heliotropic apartment buildings which have become so popular and which tend to spring up at the south edge of the city where continuous solar access is unproblematic.

Sarkin (1995)

Courtesy: *Slums, Security and Shelter Pakistan NGO Report to Habitat II* (1996)

NOISE POLLUTION AND GLOBAL WATER CRISES

By Shahzada Mohammad Uzair, B.Sc., LL.B., MSE (KU)

NOISE POLLUTION

There are many different sounds and noises we hear around us. We can probably hear people talking, some traffic noise, tick tick of a clock, perhaps an aeroplane or background hum of an industry etc. In fact, some level of noise is always with us, but the amount of noises in our society grows every year.

As with air and water pollution noise pollution is worst in our cities, pollution is generally defined as the

presence of harmful substances in our environment. But the noise does not quite fit this definition. Because noise is invisible and is increasing. Exposure to large quantity of noise can damage a person's health. For instance, prolonged exposure to noise may cause a person to suffer permanent hearing loss, because cells in the inner ear will be destroyed. But the noise can affect the body in other ways too. Very loud noise actually causes physical

changes. The heart beats faster, the blood vessels constrict, and the pupils of the eye dilate, such noises may even cause stomach pains. Loud and intense noise also tends to make people tense and irritable. So it may contribute to disorders related to stress, such as ulcers and high blood pressures. In experiments done on animals, constant noise has resulted in heart, brain, and liver damage. Even fairly quiet sounds, such as distant traffic

or hum of a factory or a neighbour's stereo can affect a person's health if they cause lack of sleep.

In the country like Pakistan where steps to check or control, even the pollutants having immediate effects, have been neglected, keeping noise pollution under an acceptable limit falls in the lowest priority. In a country where sewerage waste is being continuously dumped untreated into the rivers and sea, where the underground

water reserves are unprotected from being polluted, where vehicles and industries puff out toxic gases without having an eye brow raised, taking care of noise pollution is a far cry. Public ignorance and government apathy together contributed in increasing the ill effects of noise level in Pakistan, and nothing is being done to remedy the situation. When individuals or some organizations carry out limited research, its findings are filed away in dusty files and the problem is brushed under the carpet. Thus individual or group efforts end up in frustration.

Some countries have managed to reduce noise levels by introducing noise control laws. "Britain, for instance, has strict limits on the amount of noise a truck is allowed to make. And Japan has introduced noise limits for all types of machinery and vehicles. Signboards at busy areas in Tokyo indicate noise level, keeping the public aware of noise pollution.

In Pakistan nothing has been done to control noise pollution except few researches and seminars. In view of present situation, there is an urgent need to make awareness among the public and to persuade the government and legislative

authorities to bring in legislation to control noise level. □

WATER FOR LIFE - THE GLOBAL WATER CRISIS

Water is essential for life. It is the one substance common to every creature on earth. Our world has a fixed, abundant quantity of water - most of it in the oceans. As a resource, less than one percent is accessible to humans for consumption. While even this is enough for our growing populations, clean water - water that is safe for humans and other creatures - is vanishing.

Rivers, lakes and oceans have become an enormous dumping ground for some of the most harmful substances known. The most toxic of wastes released into our waterways include the more than 70,000 synthetic chemicals that are circulating through our environment. By poisoning water habitats, we are rapidly destroying the systems upon which we depend for life.

As a planet we have more than enough fresh water to meet our needs, but demand for water will continually increase along with population growth and expanded agricultural irrigation.

Nevertheless, we continue polluting our fresh water

resources with industrial and domestic wastes, as well as run-off of agricultural pesticides and fertilisers. Rivers, lakes, aquifers and eventually coastal waters and oceans bear the brunt of all these wastes.

In order to ensure that we have enough clean fresh water to meet our future needs, work must start now to reverse the damage already done. □

THE INDUSTRIAL NOISE-INDUCED HEARING LOSS IN THE SITE AREA OF KARACHI

The present research study has been designed and conducted to investigate the industrial noise induced hearing loss in the Sindh Industrial and Trading Estate (SITE) of Karachi. Three textile factories A, B and C were selected by using Purposive sampling method and 30 industrial workers from these three factories were randomly selected as the sample of the study. Noise is unwanted, undesirable and unpleasant sound causes damage to the ear.

Exposure to excessive noise causes hearing impairment. It creates a temporary threshold shift (TTS) which becomes permanent with the passage of time and also causes irreparable damage to

the inner ear portion, the cochlea.

The employers of three factories were severely resisted to record the noise level in their factories. After a dialogue and its persuasion the investigator was able to record the noise level at various locations within the factories by Sound Level Meter and in most parts of three factories the recorded noise level was above 90 dB (A), the limit which is higher than the recommended upper limits by World Health Organisation (WHO) and International Labour Organisation (ILO). The thirty workers (i.e. 10 workers from each factory) were evaluated for their hearing. Out of these 56.67 percent workers were suffering from Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL). There is an urgent need to make awareness among the industrial workers and to persuade the employers of the factories to realise the hazardous effects of industrial noise on hearing. Besides, the government and the legislative authorities should have to bring in legislation to control noise level and provide compensation for the hearing impaired workers, ultimately, it helps in starting hearing conservation programme in industries which is also an immediate need. □

Gorakh hill station - still a dream

Aziz Kachailo

Gorakh is the name of a peak on Khirthar mountain. When we look at the map of Khirthar range it reveals many peaks in Dadu and Larkana Districts. Three of these are high enough. The Kutay-Ji-Qabar is about 7000 ft. high, Gorakh mountain is 5,966 ft. high from the sea level while Daryaro Peak is

6900 ft. high

The idea of a hill-station on Gorakh peak in district Dadu was not recent. It dates back when Sir Charles Napier, the British government ruler felt a dire need of having a summer resorts in Sindh on Khirthar and Laki mountain range in district Dadu.

The British had surveyed Khirthar and Laki mountains to build a hill-station. After survey of the Gorakh, Laki, and other peaks of Khirthar mountain in Dadu and Larkana districts, the engineers scaled Gorakh peak and according to them it was cooler than Quetta. These efforts received a set back when

Sindh became (merged) with Bombay presidency.

In 1931, when Dadu was made a district, the administration of those days had proposed to develop Gorakh a summer headquarter of the new born district.

The last British Deputy Commissioner of Dadu also

had visited the Gorakh peak. Gorakh is not far away from Dadu city, and it is only 70 km from city.

We can clearly see Gorakh peak from Dadu and Moro when the weather is clear.

The hill-station in Ziarat of Balochistan is nearest resort to Sindh. The people of province have to go to distant places in northern areas of Punjab, NWFP and Ziarat. On a summer vacation for a few days rest and recreation whenever they need be to get away from it all for a while but travelling alone to any of these places costs a lot of money. Gorakh is cool in summer during the day. It is cool inside as a medium sized room in which the air conditioner has been running for one hour. During the night it is possible to sleep outside with a quilt over in the month of August.

Gorakh is a windy place. It is the pleasant plateau on the Khirthar mountain range. People say that Gorakh offers the same degree of coolness as Abbottabad (NWFP).

This dry hilly spot dotted with wild olives, shrubs and acacia bushes really presents a Quetta-like profile. Because of its hill top location Gorakh is cooler than the Quetta valley and gets really chilly in winter.

There are so many small springs present at and around the Gorakh valley. Most of these springs originate at the altitude of 3000 to 4000 feet. One of such springs is located at SHAKLOEI DORO at a height of about 3500 feet, which discharges approximately 0.25 cusecs (as measured in April 1986). Another spring is at HENGHAN some two and a half miles away from where water could be pumped up when the

"future city on the roof" of Sindh is built there.

The Gorakh valley was proposed as summer capital of Sindh during the Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's regime.

The local people recall many stories. The Goras (English men) were so interested that they had built bungalows at the foot hills. Ruins of some of them still exist. Local people also recall that a British official had (fallen) seriously ill. He was advised by an indigenous Hakeem to stay at some colder places in Khirthar range and surprisingly he recovered quickly.

There are different routes to lead to the Gorakh peak. Three of them are considered to be major ones.

The first route begins from Indus highway (at Kakar) to Gaj Bungalow and then to Gorakh. The length of this route is about 56 miles. The second route is via Tor and Rajodero through Kakar. This route takes from Indus highway at a point 28 km from Dadu. This route is lengthy. It passes from many villages and of Kachho area.

The third route also starts from Indus highway but it traverses from Johi and crossing Food Protective (FP) Bund and Nai Gaj river (Kacho river) bed, reaches Chinni village. From Chinni one has to travel up to Tando Rahim (TR) Khan, by passing from the shrine of Gaji Shah and many ancient archeological monuments along the Kacha track.

Tando Rahim is the last village before hilly area starts. This route is different from first two as a new hilly track, 42 km in length which ends just 10 km below Gorakh has been levelled.

This route crosses Angai river which flows permanently with spring water. About 10 km away from TR Khan village, more than 3000 feet high mountain called Garo mountain comes in the way. There are many passes to cross by a vehicle through newly made track. Before you reach Gorakh yet another mount called 'Karo' is to be crossed. For preparing hilly track, the ex-Deputy Commissioner, Dadu, Gul Mohammad Umrani and Brigadier Yasoob Dogar of Pakistan Army worked with participation of local tribal chiefs in the making of hilly track which is jeepable.

This reporter, along with other journalists also travelled through this route up to Garo mountain at an altitude of about 3000 feet. Our team comprised of Anwer Pirzado, Naseer Aijaz, Badar Abro, Jawed Soomro, photographer Shabir Soomro and two local guides Ghulam Mohammad Jamali and Azeem Jamali.

We travelled by night from Dadu and after night stay at Manchhar Rest House (Shah Hasan) we continued our journey on the next day early in the morning for Gorakh.

It is a major question in the minds of people of this province, especially those who are interested in tourist promotion as to what were the causes which delayed this fascinating and profitable project.

The government had earmarked Rs. 1.1 million for the development of Gorakh hill station but the funds were diverted to the flood relief operation in 1954. Again in 1961 Jam Ali Khan, member, Provincial Development Advisory Council put forward this idea. He had stressed that developing a summer hill

resort in Khirthar range will open up vast areas of potential development not only in the sphere of tourism but also in the socio-economic sector for up lift of the population in this remote (Kacho) area.

The late Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Mohammad Khan Junejo had also taken keen interest in this hill station project. During Bhutto's government the project became the victim of red tapism. Late M. Khan Junejo flew over the mountain and attended a briefing in Dadu. However, Ms. Benazir Bhutto was first Prime Minister to land at Mumthal, a place slightly below Gorakh peak. She announced Rs. 40 million for preparation of feasibility report of hill station project.

The government record shows that the Junejo government had also set aside Rs. 7 million in 1985, for the purpose.

But still the plan for constructing link road from Indus Highway to Gorakh is not carried out, as yet.

It must be mentioned here that a high official of Sindh Government's Planning Department had once commented in a briefing that it would be better to provide air conditioners to all the houses in Dadu instead of building a hill station at Gorakh. One can judge the level of interest with bureaucrats about Gorakh Hill Station.

However, it is advisable to set a deadline for completing the development of infrastructural facilities like a link road, water supply, electricity, telephone service etc., to realise the dream of Gorakh Hill Station as soon as possible.

MULTI-STOREYS WITH GUILTY STORIES

Shehri-CBE is an Environmental NGO working through its various Sub-Committees, for the restoration of parks/playgrounds, historical buildings, pollution control activities as well as providing Legal Advice on Social issues, since 1988.

It is an organisation comprising of a group of concerned and dedicated members who manage these Sub-Committees and serve on a voluntary basis, for a better environment of the citizens.

Q: Your organisation has taken up the issue of the violations of building rules, in a big way. How did this campaign start?

A: This menace of unplanned urban growth, in the form of high-rises mushrooming everywhere, regardless of the infrastructure and the building laws, was the main cause for Shehri to initiate steps to stem the rot, by creating awareness among residents, and the community seeking their co-operation in dealing with the concerned authorities, viz. KBCA, KDA, KMC, to bring about accountability, transparency and the rule of law in their dealings with the public.

Q: Violations?

A: Residential plots being misused and commercialised without any regard to procedure.

Inner city of Karachi, the houses and bungalows are being converted into high-rises, this is evident in Garden East-West, Jamshed Quarters areas, where also, encroachments of compulsory open spaces as elsewhere are taking place.

Q: How large is the scale of this problem and what are its repercussions?

A: This issue is assuming gigantic proportions as the builders Mafia in co-ordination with Town Planners continue to sweep this fact under the carpet. Shehri's point of view is that the housing needs of Karachi city cannot be denied, but the need for proper enforcement of building rules and regulations and high-rise zoning has to be done with due consideration for a healthy, safe and environmentally clean living standard.

Q: Government organisation authorised for enforcement of building laws?

A: KDA, KMC through KBCA, Civil Administration, Co-operative Societies and the Cantonment.

Q: Role of judiciary in preventing cancer of illegal buildings?

A: Shehri-CBE in its as an environmental NGO has taken upon itself to curb the menace of illegal and unauthorized buildings being constructed in residential areas by filing legal petitions in both Lower and the Higher Courts, seeking legal assistance, in its struggle for implementation of building laws and curbing violations. In this regard CBE has filed cases in the High Court of Sindh with community participation.

Q: Rules and Regulations whether satisfactory or need amendments?

A: Satisfactory, but are not implemented. The whole system needs overhauling, citizens participation in each and every violation viz. build-

ing, roads, sewerage, electricity should be undertaken which can only be done with full civic consciousness and accountability.

Q: Shehri's participation in making a difference?

A: The greatest difference that CBE has made is that it has made the concerned authorities realize that they no longer will be permitted to circumvent the law to the detriment of the citizens, for which they will be answerable to the court of Law. Shehri has brought about an awareness among the citizens as well as among the authorities concerned. We are sure that a handful of dedicated individuals will in the end achieve their goal and bring about a change for a better environment.

Courtesy "Dawn"



AMBER ALI BHAI

**Karachi Building Control Authority, (K.M.C.)
KARACHI METROPOLITAN CORPORATION**
(Authority Under Sindh Building Control Ordinance, 1979-82)
Civic Centre Annexe, University Road, Gulshan-e-Iqbal,
Karachi-5, (Pakistan). Phone: 4931984

PUBLIC NOTICE (Attention Buyers)

The Karachi Building Control Authority, KMC, informs the general public that unauthorised constructions under the shelter of status quo or in other violations of approved building plan on the following plots are being carried out in Garden East area, Karachi. Plot Nos. are as follows:

1. 46, GRE	2-50/4/8,	3-103, GRE
4. 148, GRE	5-153/5, GRE	6-167, GRE
7. 195/2-E,	8-216, GRE	9-217, GRE
10. 215, GRE	11-218, GRE	12-258, GRE
13. 272/5, GRE	14-289, GRE	15-308, GRE
16. 327/1-A,	17-337, GRE	18-343, GRE
19. 361/1, GRE	20-361/2, GRE	21-371 & 360 GRE
22. 385/2, GRE	23-294, GRE	24-395/3, GRE
25. 402, GRE	26-441/1, GRE	27-457/2, GRE
28. 458/1, GRE	29-511/20, GRE	30-364/1, GRE
31. 512, GRE	32-517, GRE	33-538/4, GRE
34. 538/5, GRE	35-538/12, GRE	36-511/22, GRE

The KBCA (KMC) hereby warn the general public in their own interest not to book/purchase any flat, shop, godown and town houses in any of the aforesaid plots/projects.

It is also pointed out that the KBCA (KMC) allows only ground and one upper floor for residential purpose in Garden East Area, Karachi.

**CHIEF CONTROLLER OF BUILDINGS
KBCA (KMC)**

Courtesy: Dawn, 09-11-95

SHEHRI REPORT

Shehri-CBE Meetings with KBCA (KMC) 1995-96.

Over the past years, Shehri-CBE has been able to achieve a great deal in the field of illegal buildings, unauthorised structures have been sealed/demolished, residents/signature campaigns conducted, Constitutional Writ Petitions instituted in the High Court. A small dent has been made in the building mafia.

There is a need to strengthen and consolidate this effort of some of the citizens, by conducting a campaign in the press/media to increase public awareness and encourage participation of the citizens at large. Mr. Javed Jabbar of MNJ Communications Ltd., has been contacted in this behalf, to assist Shehri-CBE in its publicity, as this is a matter of public interest and the environment

Further our efforts received a face-lift when Prof. Nauman Ahmed, Technical Advisor to Administrator KMC, formed a Committee of Lawyers to assist the ALAs in their workings in matters relating to the Building Control Ordinance.

The Committee thus formed constituted of Mr. Qazi Faez Isa, Mr. Naim-ur-Rahman and Mr. Makhdoom Ali Khan, who were assigned to detect and amend the anomalies in the Building Code.

The same year, 1995, during the month of July, Prof. Nauman proposed the idea that regular meetings with Shehri-CBE and KBCA (KMC) will be held once every week either on Tuesday or on Saturday. This schedule is being followed: every Saturday a meeting is held with the KBCA and Shehri-

CBE at 9:30 a.m.

This was to ensure that the relevant COB, DCBs, ACBs and ALAs take prompt action to stop illegal and unauthorised constructions including:

- * filing of criminal prosecution cases with ADM (East)
- * vacation of Status-Quo Orders (if any) from Lower Courts
- * filing of contempt applications for violating of Status-Quo Orders
- * sealing of premises/buildings/shops/flats by KBCA Magistrates
- * filing of immediate reports with name/address of builders with Soldier Bazaar/New Town Thanas and SDM/Jamshed Quarters, when builders violate the Status-Quo Orders
- * effective demolition of the illegal buildings
- * application to the Commissioner Karachi to have the land leases and structures thereon forfeited
- * application to FIA (other relevant authority) to have the criminal builder/owner arrested for defrauding the public by selling their illegal flats/shops
- * advertisement in the English/Urdu/Gujrati newspapers.

While establishing contact with KBCA officials over the past few months, Shehri-CBE felt that the inefficiency and maladministration of the Legal Department is a major contributing factor to the Noora Kushti, that has allowed a proliferation of illegal and unauthorised multi-storey buildings all over Karachi and a degradation of the environment of the city.

It was pointed out by

Shehri to concerned authorities viz. KESC, KW&SB and Sui Southern Gas Company, about their encouraging and endorsing criminal building activity by supplying the civic amenities to unauthorised buildings presently under construction. Immediate action was proposed to stop connections thereon.

The Controller of Buildings thereupon ordered the concerned companies to stop supply with immediate effect to illegal buildings in Garden East, Jamshed Quarters and Soldier Bazaar. This letter was sent on 29-9-1995 for action.

THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETINGS AND EFFORTS OF SHEHRI-CBE SINCE JULY 1995 TO DATE

- 1) Most of the illegal building activity in Garden East has come to a temporary halt.
- 2) The Commissioner Karachi, Zia-ul-Islam has compelled the KBCA (see enclosed notice) and the District Administration to clamp down and seal buildings, partially demolish etc.
- 3) Warning notices were published by Dawn, The News and Jang, against illegal constructions.
- 4) The Karachi Building Control Authority (KMC) published a notice prohibiting buyers from transacting sale deeds of flat/shops etc. in illegally constructed buildings in Garden East, Jamshed Quarters and Soldier Bazaar areas.
- 5) The Shehri-CBE Lawyers have filed petitions in the High Court against illegal high-rises in Garden East on which Status-Quo was ordered and construction activity was stopped.

The outstanding feature of filing these cases was that the builders have had a set back due to fall in prices of flats/shops in Garden East, and the citizens are not coming forward for booking. Regular survey of illegal construction is conducted by KBCA and the legal Committee Naazirs in the areas.

6) Partial/impartial demolitions took place from November '95 to date, which were publicised by the news agencies, viz. Dawn, The News, Jang and the Gujrati papers, with pictures.

A proposal to set-up a Shehri-CBE office in Garden East and contributions of about Rs. 1,20,000 were made by concerned residents of Garden East.

This reveals the citizens awareness towards environmental betterment.

At the meeting held on Nov. 21, 1995 Shehri-CBE congratulated KBCA on having stopped most of the illegal building activity in Garden East. Extra efforts would be required to bring about a change in the complete set-up of KBCA (KMC), which would be possible only if residents become fully aware and work shoulder to shoulder with the Shehri.

The residents of PECHS are realising the problems faced due to the illegal constructions in residential areas, and there is considerable awareness created due to the signature campaign which has brought the residents to face the situation by going to court with Shehri-CBE's assistance.

PROFILE

Karachi Adventist Hospital

By Akhtar W. Injeeli, MD

To most people, Karachi Adventist Hospital is still the "7-day Hospital". Not a bad name for an institution that has been serving the nation continuously seven days a week, fifty-two weeks a year since October 18, 1951.

Many people come to Karachi Adventist Hospital because of the long family ties they have established here. Recently Mrs. Afshan Aziz, who delivered a son on November 13, 1995 told the nursing staff that she herself was born here at 7-day Hospital, more than twenty some years ago.

Karachi Adventist Hospital (KAH), is the brain child of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (hence the name 7-day). It is part of an international chain of health care institutions run by the church.

Like over 560 other sister institutions throughout the world, Karachi Adventist Hospital is committed to providing quality health care to as many people as possible, regardless of their colour, ethnic background, political connections, geographical ties or religious affiliations. The billboard of the Hospital located strategically on the north-east corner of its premises, claims "We care". Ever since its official opening over forty-four years ago, the Hospital has tried its best to live up to this motto.

KAH is a monument built by love, devotion, philanthropic giving and dedicated service to humanity. Located on M.A. Jinnah Road, an

edifice to the belief that all human life is valuable, beyond price, and that the best possible health attainable for every individual is an inherent right of every human-being.

Right now this 138-bed facility provides adequate services in the departments of general surgery (both traditional and laparoscopic), general medicine, cardiology (heart) gastro-enterology, dermatology (skin), paediatrics (child health), ophthalmology (eyes), ENT (ears, nose & throat), and orthopaedics (joints and bones). It also provides services in emergency medical care, diagnostic medicines, (Medical Laboratory, radiology and ultrasound, obstetrics & gynaecology, and physiotherapy).

In an attempt not only to provide adequate health care, but also to train adequate health care professionals, KAH started its School of Nursing in 1956 which has to date turned out 451 nurses, which are serving in all parts of Pakistan, and a number has gone abroad to share the caring philosophy they have learned here.

"I come to 7-day Hospital, because this is the hospital where I get the best nursing care," says Mr. Majid Akram, a diabetic and who is under the care of KAH physicians. This sentiment is shared by many of our patients.

The KAH School of Nursing (SON) has lived up to the expectations of her founders. Like a beacon of light the rays of KAH's caring philoso-

phy have spread beyond its immediate physical premises.

"In the recent examination administered by the Sindh Nursing Education Board (SNEB), the students from the KAH, SON, have attained 100% passing results, with most of the students scoring in the 1st Division," reports Mrs. LaVeta McGary, the Principal of KAH School of Nursing.

With such an excellent academic performance and the caring philosophy of their Alma Mater, it is no surprise that people needing medical attention, choose the time tested "7-day Hospital" to meet their needs.

On August 1, 1994, a Department of Public Health was added to enhance the humanitarian aim of the hospital. Along with Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), an affiliate institution, the Department of Public Health endeavours to reach the most deserving communities of the city and here suburbs. The KAH-ADRA teams fully support and participate in mass immunisation campaigns, water and sanitation projects, nutrition education, health-hazards awareness, and in conducting Health education seminars, both for urban dwellers as well as at the grass-root levels of the far-flung areas.

The Hospital, as it stands today, was a joint community venture and many philanthropic individuals and groups contributed towards its constructions. Having

lived up to its claim of caring and having survived through ups and downs of the times, we hope that some spirit will be shown which prevailed a couple of years after the birth of Pakistan as a nation.

Mr. Don Schatzschneider, the Administrator, states that every patient that comes to KAH is a VIP and deserves to be treated as such. This spirit pervades throughout the different departments of the Institution. Take, for example, the Blood Bank and Transfusion Services provided by the Laboratory. Mr. Inderias Inayat, the Supervisor, states that e do not and will not accept commercial blood donors for our patients. "We want only best quality blood, and because many times the commercial donors are drug addicts and/or their past medical histories are not known, we cannot take the risk of using their blood for our patients." Thus the family members and relations of the patients are requested and encouraged to become a part of the caring Institution by donating their own blood.

The concept of our Health Education team of being partners in their own health care is what our health care team is trying to teach its patients.

The founding fathers of KAH believed (a belief that is held strongly by all its workers even today) that no patient is a passive recipient of health care; rather he is in partnership with the hospital in maintaining, improving, and restoring his health. □

HOUSEKEEPING AT SHEHRI-CBE

The Meeting of the Managing Committee of Shehri-CBE was held on Thursday, March 21, 1996 at 2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to discuss the "Housekeeping at Shehri-CBE. The proceedings are conducted by Mr. Hasan Jaffery, Vice-Chairperson, Shehri-CBE.

The following agenda was considered:

- a) The job function of each Shehri-CBE personnel of the Secretariat must be defined by first determining the fixed (3 or 4) categories of Shehri-CBE needs. Individual participation in determining job categories will be solicited from each member, and thereafter a consensus will be arrived at.
- b) Once job categories are defined, job functions on day to day basis, must be listed by consensus.
- c) Where job functions relate to equipment/tools needed at initial or required to be upgraded (e.g. software) and it is not available at Shehri-CBE, a strong case for consideration by FNF for funding be made.
- d) The authority and functions of all Shehri-CBE members must be reviewed, especially the overall authority of the General Secretary, Shehri over the secretariat staff must be clearly defined in the Articles of Association.
- e) Shehri-CBE job categories and the recruitment procedure methods of selection to be discussed, including issue of replacement of personnel.
- f) Communication links and feedback mechanism between Shehri-CBE Managing Committee and its membership to

be reviewed.

g) Formation of a fund Raising Committee and collaboration of other NGOs/Institutions/Agencies in different activities to be defined.

2. To discuss the two day Seminar on "Citizens' Role in the Governance of Karachi."

Mr. Hasan Jaffery Vice Chairperson CBE, conducted the meeting, in which the proposals for 1996 of all seven Sub-Committees were discussed as submitted and approved by FNF.

There were two sessions of the meeting, in which exhaustive discussions were held and decisions taken which would lead to more organised work by the members and the Shehri-CBE staff in future.

MINUTES OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE WORKSHOP ON THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1996 FROM 2:30 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M. AT THE SHEHRI-CBE OFFICE, KARACHI.

Present Mr. Qazi Faez Isa, Chairman, Shehri-CBE; Mr. Hasan Jaffery, Vice Chairman, Shehri-CBE; Mrs. Amber Alibhai, Gen. Secretary, Shehri-CBE; Mr. Khatib Ahmed, Treasurer, Shehri-CBE and M/s. Navaid Husain, Mrs. Victoria de Souza, Ms. Humaira Rahman, Mr. Roland deSouza (invited), Members, Shehri-CBE.

Absent: Mr. Hassan Merchant, Mr. Faran Anwar and Mr. Danish Azar Zubay, Members, Shehri-CBE.

MINUTES

Mr. Hasan Jaffery, Vice Chairperson, conducted the meeting, which discussed the proposals for 1996 of all the undermentioned Sub-Com-

mittees, as submitted and approved by FNF:

Parks & Recreation Sub-Committee, Mr. Khatib Ahmed/Mr. Faran Anwar; Heritage Sub-Committee, Mr. Danish Zubay; Media & Outreach Sub-Committee, Ms. Humaira/Mr. Hasan Jaffery; Legal Sub-Committee, Mr. Faez Qazi Isa/Mrs. Amber Alibhai; Anti-Pollution Sub-Committee, Mr. Navaid Husain; Fund Raising, All MC Members.

PARKS AND RECREATION (Mr. Khatib Ahmed)

It was pointed out that there has been no fund allocation for this project. Mr. Khatib to put down the projects that he has in mind for FNF funding.

The zoo has asked Shehri to help them set up a unit for solid waste management (composting). We have to co-ordinate with the zoo people for animal droppings, leaves, etc. which can be turned into compost. Mrs. Rabia Khatib has promised to help us. We have asked FNF for Rs. 20,000.

Mr. Khatib said that he wanted to adopt Jheel Park and work in collaboration with Mr. Faran Anwar who would help him get this funding. Mrs. Amber said that we did not get the logistics from KMC. Ms. Humaira questioned the feasibility of adopting a park. It was decided that we should oversee rather than adopt the park, and keep up the pressure on KMC for funding it. This project will henceforth come under the heading of General Works. The Secretariat can do the work of liaisoning and correspondence.

Mr. Navaid suggested that we should have a data-bank

giving the status reports of the green areas in Karachi, Garden East/West, Jamshed Quarters, PECIIS, etc. Shehri should embark on tree plantation drives (parks). Once the periphery is defined, the park is saved. Mrs. Amber suggested that some money would be required for individual surveys.

Mangrove Forest

A lot of work has been done in this regard. Mr. Hasan wanted to know whether we have a concrete proposal and whether this would be taken up in 1996. Mr. Faez opined that we ask FNF for funding it and if they were not willing to assist us, we could assign this to the funding group.

MEDIA AND OUTREACH (Ms. Humaira Rehman/Mr. Hasan Jaffery)

It was pointed out that every year 12 Newsletters come out, 4 in Urdu, 4 in English, and 4 in Sindhi. It was suggested by Mr. Faez that we have a list subject-wise of all the articles that have been printed and have a consolidated list once in a while circulated with the Newsletters. As the feedback is not satisfactory, it was suggested we have a perforated page in the Newsletter whenever we need it.

It was further suggested that we should interlink with the journalists of the various newspapers and have periodical meetings with them, every three months. Mr. Faez said that we should have a list of papers and a directory of paper-wallahs.

Bad Publicity

In case of bad or negative publicity in the press, the Secretariat should immediately contact the Media and

Outreach Sub-Committee who could respond to this, or delegate a member of the Managing Committee to handle the situation expeditiously and effectively.

It was suggested by Mr. Faiz that we have a caricatured mascot which would make a lot of impact like the one on 'noora khusti' for illegal buildings.

Sindhi Newsletter

Ms. Humaira said that they had met 19 Sindhi journalists, when they held a follow-up seminar on Environmental Journalism in the Sindh Press in 1995, and now they have been invited back to Dadu and Sanghar where they intend meeting the MNAs and the MPAs.

She further said that there was a lot of appreciation for the effort and that the people in places like Gujrat and Sanghar have responded to our Newsletter in Sindhi, but the funding is constricted.

New Introductory Brochure on PECHS

It was discussed with the Media and Outrage Sub-Committee this year that they would help us print our new general introductory brochure in Urdu and English on PECHS, which comes under Head 2140 - General Expenses - MOU 1996.

LEGAL

The proposed seminar on Governance of Karachi was discussed. The decision was that we should concentrate on KMC and the police. Mr. Faiz was all praise for our seminar on Cancer of Illegal Buildings, held in January this year which reflected every viewpoint and the builders were made aware of the fact that they were doing something wrong. As regards

this seminar, it is left to be seen whether we involve the Parliament and the Provincial government. It was suggested that the constituent MPs may be invited to this seminar. This is an agenda item for the Managing Committee meeting to be held on 21st of March, 1996, from 2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Quetta Building Code

There was a proposal for funding a seminar on Quetta Building Code. This is a non-funded activity as it has been taken out from the MOU.

Amenity Plots for Schools

It was agreed that schools are an integral part of our society. KMC had allocated schools with huge amenity plots which are being commercialized. The Building Control authorities explain that this commercialization was due to a lacuna in the Building Code. Could Shehri-CBE assist the schools in streamlining this for them without any money? Should we have a follow-up seminar to the one held in October 1995? Rs. 10,000/- is the budget allocation. This is an agenda item for the forthcoming Managing Committee meeting.

Pending Cases

We have 15 cases pending (5 cases have been funded by the residents and 10 cases entirely by Shehri-CBE). Mr. Navaid opined that a lot of money has gone into these cases and could we have a seminar on this subject. The budget allocation is Rs. 60,000/-. Ms. Humaira suggested that we select a retired person, or an active one, for evaluating these cases. This is an agenda item.

Seminar on ALAS

Mrs. Amber said that our

ultimate campaign is to bring in amendments to Sindh Building Control Ordinance, 1979. An agenda item to discuss the strategy to be laid out.

New Litigation

Take matter to court.

To prevent residential localities from being commercialized.

To ensure that the government re-defines environmental studies as a science and re-defines it further, as being intrinsic to the fullest realization of basic human rights.

To see to the implementation of the building laws and their regularization.

To provide legal intervention and assistance in case of violations of the buildings laws and ordinances.

ANTI-POLLUTION (Mr. Navaid Husain)

1. Power Plants - Flyer - fallout.

2. Vehicular Smoke Emission.

What is the objective of the Power Plants follow up. What does Shehri want to achieve?

Power produced at reasonable cost. This time just concentrate on the Power Plants in Karachi - their fuel and their location "objective" - more environmental friendly technology for these Power Plants. Clean Fuel Technology - Acid raid. Target - audience. Marine Pollution - lobby.

Ainul Abedin - Resource person - develop a consensus within ourselves and then go to the public. Lobby/mass rabble rousing/Shehri to spearhead with other NGOs. Call A. Abedin and ask him to

educate MC and their citizens and set up data base for information.

Vehicular Smoke Emission.

Disseminate the information in the form of a flyer.

Mr. Navaid explained the drawback at the moment is that the NQS (National Quality Standards) are still not binding. Until such time we, Shehri, can only highlight issues detrimental to the environment.

The Power Plants issue needs a further push to create a platform for other concerned groups.

The issue of vehicular smoke emission needs to be taken up as the drive against this and noisy rickshaws is faltering and pressure needs to be exerted on the transporters and administration.

HERITAGE (Daz and Humaira)

1. Flyer still pending
2. Start a heritage page in Newsletter.
3. KPT page - 18 bldgs. report.
4. Bus route
Shehri-CBE should develop cataloged reference library.

FUND RAISING

Phasing out period.

1. All MC members.
2. Contact donor agencies. National and International.
3. Government/project specific.

An agenda item in the MC meeting.

INDUSTRIALISTS CONDEMN INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION

By Dr. A. Sami Uz Zaman

Dear Friends!

It is very difficult to establish a friendly relation between Industrial Pollution and Urban Master Plan. Specially in the conditions which exist in the country. At present there is no emphasis on any planning in the country except family. All the previous plans either have failed or suspended or replaced by 'unplan'. Any how a strong, legitimate relationship exists between 'The City and The Industry'. It is a fact that cities were rarely planned to withstand the Industrial Pollution. The needs created the cities and the wishes expanded them. Wishes can unplan any plan. The history says that the most of the cities started along the rivers where food and other facilities were available, they grew unplanned. Sometimes the cities were planned. Pakistan is fortunate enough to have two planned cities one as old as 5000 years that is Moenjodaro, the other is Islamabad which is hardly 35 years old. The existence of well planned sewerage system in the city of Moenjodaro is not by chance. In the Master Plan of Islamabad Sector I/9 was earmarked for light industries which would not harm the Environment in any way, the fact is that the obnoxious fumes from the chimneys of Steel Rolling Mills and dust from Marble Industries has become life difficult for the residents of Islamabad. Similarly in each sector large green plots were developed to purify the air and create a pleasant and healthy atmosphere. The beautification of Islamabad plan has started recently, the green plots near Aahpara in G/7 sector have been handed over to the contractors for the construction

of flats and high rise buildings. The buildings are rising and protests of the nearby residents are subsiding. The CDA with its large Directorate of Environment, The Environment Protection Council and the Ministry for Environment and Urban Affairs Division is silent on this issue. I have quoted the above example to find out relation between Master Plan of a city and Pollution in our country.]

The trend has changed with the passage of time. Now cities do not start along the rivers. The cities start around Industries. Either you plan a city or an Industrial Estate it is bound to come close to each other. So planners should be careful not to bring the two in front of each other as enemies, instead they should consider them as unavoidable partners and should plan in such a way that the Cities and Industries live together away from Pollution. You can start an Industrial Estate as far as 100 miles away from the city, what will happen after some time? A new city would be created all around the industries in an unplanned manner creating lot of Environmental problems.

The question is still unanswered whether the fault lies in planning, in industries, in people, or in those who are responsible for preparing and implementing a plan. KDA also prepared a Master Plan for Karachi. But to err is human and to forgive is divine. We pray God to forgive KDA for an erratic creation of Korangi Industrial Area. God created millions of animals each with well defined excretory system, KDA has created only one Industrial Area that too with

Drainage System. KMC has taken over the area and is looking for by-pass. Industrialists are blamed for creating pollution, it is true to some extent. At Federation and Chamber level we have never defended polluters and will not do so in future. Before we discuss the role of Industrialists let us have a look on what others are doing. Like other funny celebrations in the country KMC celebrated a Cleanliness Week just a few days back. If you take a deep breath, even today, in any clean area of the city, you can feel the smell of burning garbage. Records of the hospitals and graveyards will tell you price citizens have paid for this foolish cleanliness week. If Makers are Breakers then system cannot run. The institutions responsible for keeping the Environment clean are busy in destroying it. The city father is not that old as to forget that the garbage shouldn't be burned in the heart of the city. Every day hundreds of the garbage trucks enter in Korangi Industrial Area, drop the garbage near Bilal Colony and fire it. The smoke which is said to be most dangerous spreads in the area. The asphalt plant has been installed in the mid of population in Korangi. All our protests were turned down. Does planning mean any thing to them? KMC and KDA are supposed to safeguard the Environment and the Plans made by them rather than destroying.

Industries emit obnoxious gases, discharge poisonous effluents and solid wastes. If the Industry has to run it is unavoidable. We as Industrialists Condemn Industrial Pollution. But the problem is that the industries cannot be

closed. They provide jobs to people of the country. They produce goods to fulfill the needs of the country and also earn Foreign Exchange from which other needs are met with. Then what is the solution? It is the biggest challenge for the planners. There is a solution to every problem. Let the industries run but control the emissions and discharges. The insecticides are poisons but they can be sprayed on edible crops without causing any damage to the users it is because they are used in right quantity at right time and in right way. Similarly we can run Industries without damaging our Environment. It needs planning and Implementation. Environment Friendly Technologies are available. Devices and techniques are available which would reduce or completely bring the emissions and discharges to the required NEQS. Those who think that only by giving ambitious plan and making certain punitive Laws it is possible to control the pollution they must be living in a fools paradise. We have very strict Drug laws and Food laws but have failed to stop adulteration in food and drugs.

So far as Environment is concerned we appreciate Government's Plans. All the new industries are supposed to obtain clearance from competent authorities and are bound to either base their industries on Environment Friendly Technology or have suitable arrangements for the Treatments of their effluents and discharges in such a way that they become harmless to the environment. We will not comment on the implementation part. Many industries have emerged specially in

power sector after the enforcement of the Law. But the results are before you the permission has been granted we cannot doubt the intentions of the competent authority while granting permission. The old industries have to improve their conditions before July 1996. The difficulty is that all of them are not in a position to do so for a variety of reasons i.e. some industries have no additional space available to put abatement devices in their premises. For some of them economic feasibility does not allow, for others cost of abatement devices is many times the cost of their plant. And for most of them Technologies are not available in the country. Before the target date arrives and implementation becomes impossible FPCCI has taken up the matter.

Industrialists are also citizens of Pakistan, they have to live here with their children. They are as much concerned about the Environment as other Pakistanis are. Some black sheep are found everywhere. Presence of such persons cannot be ruled out among Industrialists also. FPCCI which is an apex body has very carefully studied the whole situation. And after having realized that the Technology is the key to the solution FPCCI has given top priority to bring the Environmental Technologies to our country. It is hoped that our nation has a potential to modify, improve and develop these Technologies to the requirement of the country. For this purpose FPCCI has launched a program known as Environmental Technology Program for Industries (ETPI). This program is financed by Government of Netherlands and is in advance stage. The primary objective

of ETPI is to promote the use of the Environmentally safe Technologies for the production of Environmentally safe Products by Pakistan's manufacturing / industrial sector through adoption of measures for pollution abatement, waste management and recycling, chemical recovery, more efficient utilization of natural/economic resources, production and installation of instrumentation and control systems for utilizing the more efficient and environmentally safe production technologies. Besides these some specific objectives would also be achieved, as:

- 1) To establish co-ordinated and cooperative network for the implementing environmental projects in the Industrial sector of Pakistan.
- 2) To develop dissemination tool mechanism and mediums for demonstrating the benefits of environmental technology.
- 3) To strengthen capacities and capabilities of the relevant institutions both in the public and private sector for installing and operating environmental technology.
- 4) To execute environmental technology demonstration projects in the selected industrial sub-sectors.
- 5) To increase the implementation ability of National Environmental Quality Standards.

I hope you will appreciate the efforts of Industrialists and paint a new picture as Environment Friend rather than an enemy. □

People warned against illegal constructions

Commissioner Karachi has taken strict notice of gross violation of building plans of Karachi Building Control Authority and noted that a number of construction companies were indulging in construction of buildings unauthorisedly and illegally.

According to an official Press release, it was noted that such violations were more frequent particularly in the Garden East area.

In this regard people were warned and advised not to enter into any deal in any of such projects which were illegal. It was pointed out that action has been initiated against all such projects.

The Press release said a list of all such illegal projects situated in Garden East area was available in the Commissioner's office.

Courtesy "Dawn"
13-11-95

Commercialisation of children's park in PECHS Block II

The Prime Minister's secretariat, on a complaint of a PECHS resident, has asked KMC to initiate inquiry against a Deputy Controller of Buildings, who issued NOC to convert a 60,000 sq. ft. children's park into a commercial plot.

The said amenity plot (No. 22-E, Block 6) was for a children park and the KMC had spent Rs. 2.5 million on its development. But a Deputy Controller of Buildings issued the NOC to the PECHS Society to use it as a commercial site. On the resistance of the area people the NOC was withdrawn.

Mr. Sher Afzal Khan, a resident, recently complained to the Prime Minister that no action had been taken against

the errant KBCA official and feared that the said amenity plot was not yet safe from the builders mafia and the KBCA officials.

The Chief Controller of Buildings, also submitted a report to the Administrator explaining that the plot was commercialised on verbal instruction of the Secretary to the Chief Minister and that the KBCA official was not guilty.

However, the Administrator was not satisfied as he should have been informed. □

15 premises declared protected

The Sindh Government has under Sindh Cultural Heritage (Preservation) Act, 1994 declared 15 premises of historical places as protected heritage.

The premises which have been declared as protected heritage included: KPT Head Office Building, Eduljee Dinshaw Road; Harbour Master's House, Manora; Dy. Conservator's House, Manora; Saint Paul Church, Manora; Watch Tower, Manora; Flag Mast, Manora; KPT Officers Club, Manora; Observatory, Manora; Water Truff, Near Harding Bridge; Hindu Temple, Manora; Mules Mansion, Keamari; Christ Church, Near Jackson Police Station, Keamari; Hindu Ghat at Native Jetty Bridge; Variawa Chamber, 14, Sunnyside Road, Belgrave Terrace Road, Karachi and Variawa Building, 11, Chundrigar Road, Karachi.

Any objection to the issue of the notification received by the government within one month from the date of the notification shall be taken into consideration.

On the expiry of the said period, the government after considering the objections, if any, may confirm or withdraw the notification. □

KBCA to punish builders for publicising projects illegally

The Controller of Buildings Karachi Building Control Authority, KDA, has asked the official concerned to keep a strict watch on the advertisements of housing projects, and immediate action be taken and show-cause notices be issued to those builders who are advertising their projects illegally.

This directive was issued by the Controller during a meeting which reviewed the media publicity of housing projects without NOCs.

Meanwhile, the KBCA-KDA has informed the people that no NOC has been issued to Gul Estate and Gul Construction Company regarding media publicity or for booking and sale of plots measuring 120, 200, 400 or 600 square yards in blocks 8, 9 and 10 of Gulistan-e- Jauhar.

The KBCA has advised the people not to enter into any transaction with the firm. Those purchasing plots in this scheme would do so on their own risk and the KBCA would not be responsible.

It has also advised the people to consult the KBCA before making any deal for purchase of land/flat or house in any of the KDA's scheme. "The KBCA is taking legal action against the company under the Sindh Building Control Ordinance," said a Press release.

Courtesy: Dawn, 18-11-1994

LETTERS

November 20, 1995

Ref: 633/35-987
Chief Controller of Buildings
KMC/KBCA
KMC Head Office, Annexe Building
M.A Jinnah Road,
Karachi.

Dear Mr. Rauf Farooqi

Re: ILLEGAL BUILDINGS IN JAMSHED QRTS. AND GARDEN WEST

This news-item is very welcome! It is good to see that the KBCA is beginning to crack-down on illegal builders!

Can you please tell us what has happened to the two cases in Jamshed Quarters, Plots 933 and 190, that we drew to your attention vide our letter dated 11-11-95. (the advertisement leaflets of Plot 190 were enclosed with our complaint). Work still seems to be going on at site!

In view of the high level of cooperation being extended to you by the Commissioner and district administration, your prompt action is required to stop all the unauthorised construction activity immediately.

Sincerely,

(Amber Alibhai)
General Secretary
Shehri-CBE

To
The Administrator,
SHEHRI-CBE,
206-G, Block 2,
PECHS,
Karachi.

Dear Mrs. Ali,

Thank you indeed for the membership form and the 'introduction'. Let me tell you that I'm not just an 'Environment Conscious Bug' for the sad of it, but, on the contrary, aware to the real extent of what is actually being done to the EARTH today. I have, in the past, tried to contact organizations like the 'FRIENDS OF THE EARTH' and environmental magazines abroad but as it happens did not receive a very healthy response from them.

SHEHRI-CBE may help to realise my wish to actually be a part of people who're doing something for our future and not just making statements in print!

Madam, I hope you'll welcome my addition to your group and, also, to wish to prove to you my worth.

As a future "media force" I have the intentions of doing just that.

To Mrs. Mansoor,
The Administrator,
Shehri-CBE,
Karachi.

Subject: To participate in the activities of Shehri

Dear Mrs. Mansoor

I have gone through a newsletter/publication of Shehri, I am very pleased to see that in the present age of hustle and bustle, the Shehri is doing a very good job.

In this connection I want to share a hand in your noble cause. I am sending you the coupon as well as a copy of abstract of a research paper which I had done in my Master's degree course from University of Karachi. My this research won first prize in the contest between universities of Karachi, Punjab and A.I.O.U. Besides, also find herewith my few articles relating to the environment.

Looking forward for your kind reply.

Yours faithfully,

(S.M. Uzair)
Advocate

Sincerely,
Zunaira Durrani

Forgotten foods

The press is full of reports detailing the annihilation of our planet's natural systems, and the corresponding loss of biodiversity. The full impact of this 'ecocide' has not yet hit us, but agronomists and plant breeders have been raising red flags for decades. Along with habitat destruction on a massive scale, has come the impoverishment of the wild gene pool so vital for maintaining the health of cultivated food crops and domestic animals.

This is made worse by humankind's dependence on a tiny fraction of the food sources the earth provides. Despite 10,000 years of settled agriculture, and that fact that 50,000 species of edible plants have been identified, we use no more than 200 species on a regular basis. In fact, a mere 15 varieties account for 90 per cent of the world's food supplies, with just three of them – rice, maize and wheat – supplying nearly two-thirds of this amount.

These "Big Three" have emerged as the most important food crops on earth, providing a basic diet for more than 4 billion people. Rice alone feeds half of

humanity. Although there are over 10,000 different species of cereals, no new ones have been introduced into cultivation for the past 2,000 years.

And what remains hangs by an incredibly fragile genetic thread. The overwhelming bulk of our cultivated food now depends increasingly on a rapidly shrinking gene pool. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, since the beginning of this century about 75 per cent of the genetic diversity of agricultural crops has been lost.

A similar process of genetic erosion has increased the vulnerability of domesticated animals to diseases. One in four livestock breeds found outside Europe are now thought to be at risk of extinction because of the impoverishment of the wild gene pool.

Genes from the wild are invaluable for plant breeders. When genetic uniformity left the US maize crop vulnerable to a blight that cost nearly a billion dollars in lost production in the 1970s, resistance was discovered in a wild variety of maize found only in East Africa. It is equally

frightening to realize that one gene from a single Ethiopian barley plant protects California's \$160 million barley crop from the yellow dwarf virus. In India, 10 types of rice are grown in an area that once harboured over 30,000 different varieties!

Furthermore, the erosion of the world's food security continues at an annual rate of 1-2 per cent.

Perhaps one way to compensate for a narrowing gene base, is to broaden the number of plants cultivated. Cultivation of roots and tubers, like cassava, yams and taro, which are important staples for around one billion poor people in the developing world, could be expanded easily. They are all nutritious foods, high in carbohydrates, calcium and vitamin C. Moreover, they are easily grown in the tropics, even on poor soils.

The other possibility is to bring back some of the world's forgotten foods, foods which were exploited in the past but lost out to modern agriculture. In a number of countries, particularly in the tropics, under-exploited, traditional food plants are being rediscovered.

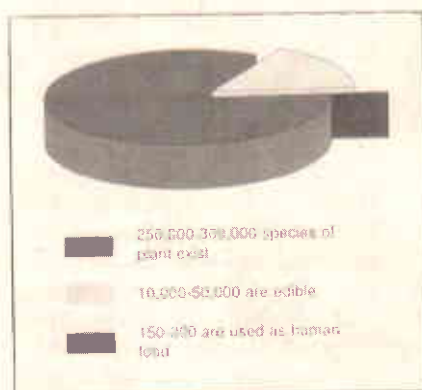
Take the example of amaranth and quinoa, two grains that were cultivated by the Incas of Peru and the Aztecs of Mexico. Both have been rediscovered by agronomists. These two grains are versatile and nutritious foods, containing more high quality protein than most other commercial grains, including rice, maize and wheat.

There is a growing commercial market for both of these plants. Health food companies in North America and Europe have already developed products based on both grains.

But these are only two of thousands of species that could be rediscovered and cultivated in commercial quantities. If we are to feed 8 billion people by 2020, it seems imperative that the world's food base be broadened considerably from the few varieties we now depend on. In fact, our very survival may depend on it.

*Courtesy – Don Hinrichsen
in People & The Planet*

Unexploited Biodiversity



United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT-II) 3-14 June, 1996, Istanbul

Habitat II

The second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II, also called "The City Summit"), will be held in Istanbul from 3 to 14 June, 1996. The first Habitat conference was held in Vancouver in 1976, at which time shelter was recognised as a basic human right, and member states were encouraged to develop national settlement policies to enable their populations to live in safe, decent, and healthy settlements. The conference also urged member states to formulate strategies for land resource management for human settlement development, and ensure public participation at all levels of development related to human settlements.

The deterioration of living

conditions, especially in developing countries, prompted governments to call upon the UN to convene the second Habitat conference. Habitat II aims to make the world's cities, towns, and villages healthy, safe, equitable and sustainable. It will build upon the agreements made at Habitat I, and focus on two major themes: adequate shelter for all, and sustainable human settlements in a rapidly urbanising world. Given that the majority of the world's population in the coming century will be accommodated in cities and towns, the conference will draw special attention to the urbanisation process. Within the framework of these two themes, the conference will concentrate on the following issues: shelter and affordable housing; governance; leader-

ship and participation; urban poverty reduction and job creation; environmental management and the "brown agenda" for cities, disaster mitigation, relief and reconstruction; and gender awareness.

Habitat II also has a process agenda. It will seek to encourage public-private partnerships for more effective resource mobilisation and investment; enlisting the participation of all key actors, men and women, at the global, national and local levels; capacity building and strengthening of local institutions; and finally, learning from and documenting best (or, as in this case, alternative) practices and harnessing all available technology, ideas and information to develop new solutions.

The expected outcomes of the conference include greater global awareness of the positive role of cities and towns as centres of employment, investment and trade, production and consumption, culture and learning, and civic spirit and social harmony; the identification of new and more effective investments in shelter and urban development; the design, adoption and implementation of national plans of action based on national and local priorities; and lastly, the adoption and implementation of a Global Plan of Action.

*Courtesy: Pakistan NGO Report
to Habitat II (1996)*

JOIN SHEHRI TO CREATE A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

If you wish to join SHEHRI
please send this card to →

SHEHRI Citizens for a Better Environment
206-G, Block 2, P.E.C.H.S.,
Karachi-75400, Pakistan.
Tel: 453-0846
Fax: 454-8226

Name: _____

Tel. (Off): _____ Tel. (Res): _____

Address: _____

Occupation: _____

Shehri Membership 1996

*Don't forget to renew your
membership for 1996!
Join Shehri's band of
dedicated workers and do
your bit as a good citizen to
make this city a clean,
healthy and environmentally
friendly place to live in!*

PAKISTAN: WHY ARE OUR FORESTS DISAPPEARING?

In Pakistan there are two major agents of deforestation:

- Logging without care for damage to the soil and other vegetation, and without replacement planting, and
- The pressure of people and their animals on the forests; trees are tapped for resin, limbs are lopped for fuel and fodder, fires are started to kill trees so that they can be harvested. When the tree is gone cattle eat the seedlings so that the trees cannot mature.

In the Murree Hills, the Galis, the Swat and Kaghan Valleys, the main threat to the forest resource comes from

the inhabitants of these areas. In Chitral, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and the Northern Areas, forests are disappearing both through logging and people's pressure, with logging dominating in the more isolated areas.

Key facts

- 28% of Pakistan's forest cover comprises of production forests while the remaining 72% comprises protection forests which are of little or no commercial value.

■ The major causes of deforestation in Pakistan include commercial logging without replanting, and pressures on forests

from poor farmers and their animals.

- Private farm lands in Pakistan are currently responsible for four times the timber produced in state forests and nine times the fuel wood.
- The destruction and degradation of forests has widespread implications for human society.
- Deforestation also threatens the stability of soil in the upland watersheds, the generation of hydel energy and the functioning of irrigation networks.
- Deforestation deprives the world of the genetic diversity on which it ultimately

depends.

- Local attempts to protect and manage the forests and establish and nurture new plantings have been successful in certain regions — though not yet on a significant national level.
- Rural women, many of whose families depend heavily on forest or tree products, have proved powerful allies in conservation programmes; likewise non-governmental organizations have proved most effective in implementing projects at the grassroots level.

Work on outfall drain to save Indus right bank

By Aziz Ranjhani

The government of Sindh has decided to begin work on the project of the Right Bank Outfall Drain (RBOD) on the right bank of the Indus river. With the completion of this project, nearly 93,257 acres of land in Larkana, Dadu and Shikarpur districts would be brought under cultivation.

At first, over all cost of the project was estimated at Rs. 50 billion but now it is estimated at Rs. 44 billion. According to technical experts, after the completion of this project, they would be in a position to drain out the saline water of Main Nara Valley Drain (MNVD) directly into the Indus, instead of Manchhar Lake.

These technical experts further said that previously, owing to water logging and salinity, the fertile land in Larkana, Shikarpur and Dadu districts on the right bank of the Indus, turned barren leaving hundreds of farmers destitute.

After the completion of the MNVD project, the cultivable lands on the right bank

of the Indus were largely saved, but due to the draining of saline water into Manchhar Lake, Asia's biggest sweet water lake is facing serious environmental risk.

The saline water also played havoc with marine life causing hardships to the local fishermen many of whom migrated to other places to earn their livelihood. It was also feared by irrigation experts that by the year 2000 AD marine life in the centuries old historical and natural Manchhar Lake would be destroyed in toto.

Besides, world bodies on environmental safety have also pressurized the present government to stop pollution around Manchhar Lake to save the fish as well as human life of those people who are depending on the water of Manchhar Lake and utilising its water for drinking purpose.

In this connection, the Society for the Conservation and Protection of Environment (SCOPE) has also warned in its bulletin that the

water of the Manchhar Lake that is being supplied to MNVD and Danister canal to various areas of Sindh for cultivation is not only dangerous for the agricultural land, but it could also pose a threat to other agricultural lands in the vicinity.

A few months back, SCOPE and another organization Environmental Impact Study have also warned that if the contamination of water is not checked and the impact of this pollution is not taken seriously, perhaps all life around the lake would be dead by the year 2000.

Keeping into consideration all the above factors, the Sindh Chief Minister, who also belongs to this area and the Manchhar Lake is a part of this constituency decided to commence work on the project. It is believed that people of this area voted for Syed Abdullah Shah, when he promised them during electioneering that he would start work on the project if he came to power. Thus the people voted for him with a

hope they would come back to their ancestral abode after their representative would come into power and would start normal life.

Simultaneously Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Abdullah Shah fulfilled his commitment by starting the work on RBOD project and this would certainly make the dreams of many farmers and fishermen come true.

It has been viewed by the irrigation and agricultural experts that the agricultural production of Larkana, Shikarpur and Dadu districts will almost be doubled with the completion of this project. The new direct canal that will be connected with the pumping station will drain out about 2200 cusecs of water daily from the water logged areas of the above three districts. This new concept of direct drainage system in the river Indus has been appreciated by the local people as well as by the irrigation and agriculture experts.

Courtesy: The News 22-8-94

SHEHRI ACTIVITIES

Continued from page 1

4. To appoint auditors for the year 1996 and to fix their remuneration.

5. Renewal of Membership for the year 1996.

6. Any other business with the permission of the chair.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting were read by Mr. Qazi Faez Isa, Chairman, who also elaborated on the ongoing activities of Shehri-CBE.

The Chairman said that Shehri-CBE is a non-profit and non-government organization, committed to the cause of bringing about environmental awareness for the betterment of the citizens. Mr. Faez said that Shehri wants its members to participate and give suggestions on the various activities undertaken by it. The Managing Committee is drawn from the membership of the General Body elections, every two years. The elections will be held next year and this is the time that those who want to contest the elections, may please contact the office during working hours for any assistance required. Mr. Faez confirmed that he would not be contesting next year for Chairperson.

FNF - Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Germany

Mr. Faez explained that Shehri is primarily being funded by FNF, Germany. It does not have an agenda, which we have to project. They do not dictate as to what we do, whether pro-government, or anti-government.

SHEHRI-CBE, Karachi

We receive donations from time to time. We are supported by the subscriptions drawn from our membership.

Initially, it was an organization which was pitted against the government agencies. We now find that the civic agencies have learnt

about us and have realized that we do not have any hidden agenda. They are willing to hear us and invite us to make suggestions on issues which involve the citizens of this metropolis. The Chairman emphasized that if Shehri makes a small difference, we feel we have done our task.

Sometimes if one does not get elected on the Managing Committee, but if the members feel that he could be of assistance to us, we co-opt the person concerned. We have co-opted Messrs Farhan Anwar, Hasan Merchant, Inran Sheikh and Mrs. Vicky de Souza.

We have divided the Managing Committee into different areas of specialization according to the expertise a member has. The following are our Sub-Committees:

ARCHITECTURAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE SUB-COMMITTEE

headed by Mr. Danish Azar Ruby

Mr. Danish has just prepared a brochure on the architectural beautiful buildings in Karachi. Some of these buildings are being demolished before our eyes. Greater involvement must be there to exert pressure in this regard.

MEDIA & OUTREACH SUB-COMMITTEE,

headed by Ms. Humaira Rahman and Mr. Hasan Jaffery
Newsletter

This Sub-Committee is primarily concerned with publishing and printing 3 Newsletters in English, Urdu and Sindhi, focusing basically on environmental matters. Every member is supposed to get a copy of the Newsletter, which is published quarterly. If anyone who was having difficulty in getting the Newsletter could contact our

office and inform us accordingly.

We are preparing a directory for earlier issues. We have compiled a synopsis on various subjects like air pollution and pollution in Malir River, etc. For anyone who wants to write or read the previous issues, a small fee will be charged for photocopies.

LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE

headed by Mr. Qazi Faez Isa and Mrs. Amber Alibhai

In this activity, it was explained by the Chairman, that most of the work was being done by Mrs. Amber Alibhai, who shoulders all the responsibility and blame, if any.

We get considerable assistance from Mr. Roland de Souza and Mrs. Vicky de Souza, who have been spearheading the movement, ensuring that high-rises are not constructed in those areas where G+1 is permitted. We also have assistance from Barrister Naimur Rehman.

Building Code

There are innumerable aspects of the Building Code violations. There are diversities in law and regulations. A delegation went to see the Administrator of KMC who constituted a body to suggest amendments to these laws. Barrister Naimur Rehman chaired the body which comprised of architects like Mr. Arif Hasan, Engr. Rauf Akhter Farooqui of KBCA, a representative of KDA, Prof. Nauman Ahmed, Technical Adviser to the Administrator, KMC. We made recommendations to the Sindh Building Code Ordinance, which would go a long way in restricting diversity in law.

Quetta Building Code

It was observed that Shehri's activities are focused more and more on Karachi. Another activity of Shehri is to amend the building laws of Quetta Building Code. Quetta

has a very high seismic risk and the negative aspect of constructing high-rises in this seismic zone was highlighted.

The Chairman recalled the Quetta earthquake of 1935 that devastated it completely and killed thousands of people. Shehri would ensure that this does not occur. A judgment is awaited that will probably come out by April this year.

ANTI-POLLUTION SUB-COMMITTEE

headed by Mr. Khatib/ Mrs. Khatib Ahmed

Mr. Khatib said that we do what we started off as a major business of Shehri - to prevent air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution. We were lucky to have got a Supreme Court order on noise pollution. We went ahead with it. Just a few months back the Administration tried to stop auto-rickshaws from going around without silencers. There was a small fight back from the rickshaw people, but still it is on.

Solid Waste Management

We took up an area and coordinated the citizens with the KMC for the disposal of garbage. Mr. Khatib said that we pay KMC taxes and it is their business to do this work. Shehri made the citizens aware of the fact that if littered garbage was disposed off, it would be to their benefit entirely.

Power Plants

This year we would do what we can to prevent harm and damage that will be done to Karachi by the Power Plants. Therefore, we want the help and support of our friends and members.

PARKS & RECREATION SUB-COMMITTEE

headed by Mr. Khatib Ahmed

The attention of the members was drawn to page 15 of the report and it was observed

that one of our on-going schemes was the involvement of the student community in Tree Plantation. We approached the Director of Parks, Mr. Hanif Nasir, who gave us saplings for school children. Every child present was given a sapling. To get children involved is very crucial. A child feels very protective about his particular tree.

We should try to target a specific park. We can ensure some sort of accountability. We can see to it that the mali (gardener) does his work first in the specific park, and then goes elsewhere. Mr. Faez confirmed that at the moment we do not have the resource nor the manpower for this activity. Mr. Faez stressed that Mr. Hanif Nasir, Director of Parks, has played a positive role in this sphere of activity. In Defence Housing Society, in front of Sea View Apartments, he has planted trees and has also planted dogwood in Clifton Boat Basin area, which trap the soil for tree plantation.

FUND RAISING SUB-COMMITTEE headed by Inran Raza Sheikhi/Hasan Merchant

It is good to have alternative methods of financing. We have had discussions within Shehri as to how to go about it. We may be approaching other donors to help us.

This Sub-Committee has not been energetic. We should rejuvenate it.

GENERAL WORKS COMMITTEE All Members of Shehri

Attention of the members was drawn to the write-up on page 18 of the report and it was emphasized that this is another major activity of Shehri.

AMENITY PLOT

We had a very specific seminar in October, 1995 on Amenity Plots designated for schools, under the Master

Plan, which should not be utilized for any other purpose, or encroached upon. Mr. Faez called upon the members to participate in this activity, as they being the owners should feel very strongly about it. Whatever we have must be conserved.

COMPOSTING UNIT FOR ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS headed by Mr. & Mrs. Khatib Ahmed

It was observed that garbage waste can be converted into compost and used as manure. The positive aspect is that it reduces the work of the garbage collecting agency. The members were asked if anyone was interested in this activity, he could contact Mr. & Mrs. Khatib Ahmed who had tremendous knowledge of the subject.

POWER PLANTS headed by Mr. Navaid Husain

A number of Power Plants have been purchased by the country. During a seminar it transpired that the furnace oil that is imported is of the worst category possible. It creates a great degree of pollution and is not used anywhere in the world. We need more and more information as to why the government is importing this oil and what is the difference in price for the next best, which would cause less pollution. Prior to coming to a conclusion it was important to have information and the material to make an intelligent choice. It was suggested that we try to bring in experts and disseminate information to our members, as well as members of the public, who can act as a pressure group on various government bodies.

ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM IN THE SINDHI PRESS headed by Ms. Humaira Rahman and Mr. Hasan Jaffery

The next seminar was on Environmental Journalism. Since there was much environmental degradation not only in Karachi but in entire Sindh as well, a lot of information was required to be disseminated here. Mr. Faez said that now "environment is gaining currency in urban areas". This was the reason that prompted us to bring out a Newsletter in Sindhi language and create political awareness in Sindh. It was felt that we should get the Sindhi journalists involved.

Mr. Faez went on to explain that our water supply comes from River Indus. This water channel provides a linkage between urban and rural areas. He invited those members who were interested in sending their contributions in Sindhi language, to contact our Media & Outreach Sub-Committee, who would publish the articles in their Sindhi Newsletter.

INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION & MASTER PLAN

A seminar was held by Shehri in November 1995.

One of Shehri's Newsletter carried an article on the Lyari River and the pollutants discharged into it by the Sindh Industrial Area. A judge of the Supreme Court was also a subscriber to the Newsletter that carried the article. He took "suo moto" notice of it and a letter was circulated to all the industrial establishments, inquiring whether or not they were treating the effluents. The pharmaceutical companies were most concerned and started looking into the aspect of treating effluents.

The attention of the members was drawn to the interesting letter from KBCA (KMC) on page 34 of the report, wherein the Chief Controller, complimented our efforts for raising awareness

and combating the building mafia.

In one incident we enlisted the support of the Commissioner, Karachi, who contacted the DC of the area concerned, to stop the illegal construction of a building. The Commissioner Karachi has played a pivotal role in supporting our cause. Shehri was responsible for bringing the two government agencies together.

The Chairman elucidated that the KBCA always give the excuse that the builder has got a stay order and that nothing can be done. This would go on in perpetuity. Shehri started on a few cases of illegal buildings and ensured that each and every case was conducted properly.

In another seminar on the Cancer of Illegal Buildings in Karachi, held at the Auditorium of Chartered Accountants, this year, we invited representatives of the civic agencies, like the Commissioner Karachi, EPA, KESC, KWSB, SSGC, KBCA, and the builders to participate. In this manner we provided assistance to the citizens.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE BY MR. NAIMUR REHMAN AND THE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Naimur Rehman, a senior member of the Bar and the Chairman offered to assist the legal department of the KBCA/KMC on any legal issue that they cannot contend with.

Mr. Wasti, Controller of Buildings, KBCA (KMC) was of the opinion that the builders are represented by the most expensive councils, whereas on the part of the Authority, one lawyer was dealing with about 50 to 100 cases. The Chairman confirmed again that he and Mr. Naimur Rehman are available on a particular day of the week for consultations.

The Chairman further stated that some major buildings were being demolished and that the favourite argument of the builder is that he is providing a service to the people, by giving them low cost flats. This was not true, as the real beneficiary was the builder himself.

STAFF MEMBERS

The Chairman briefly described the duties of Shehri-CBE Staff Members, as under:

Mrs. Mansoor, Administrator; Mrs. Naheed Kader, Secretary and Mr. Tamseel Ahmed Khan, Assistant Coordinator.

He stated that the Managing Committee comprises of 4 Members and they are: 1. Mr. Qazi Faez Isa, Chairman; 2. Mr. Hasan Jaffery, Vice Chairman; 3. Mrs. Amber Alibhai, General Secretary; 4. Mr. Khatib Ahmed, Treasurer.

NEXT AGM MEETING

For the next AGM Meeting, we would be circulating the Nomination Forms, which proves that Shehri was not just associated with certain individuals, and that wherever possible new blood should be injected into it.

To further the goals of Shehri, more members should come forward so that it gets known by the public. Mr. Faez further explained that our organization was an open book and that there were no secrets. Our accounts are audited by Chartered Accountants.

The Accounts were adopted as proposed by Mr. Qazi Faez Isa and seconded by Mr. Roland de Souza.

COMMENTS BY THE VICE CHAIRMAN ON SHEHRI'S WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM IN THE SINDHI PRESS - MANCHHAR ECOSYSTEM

Mr. Hasan Jaffery said that we got together some Sindhi

journalists and participants and took them to the district of Dadu where a seminar was held in October last year, in collaboration with some 18 journalists from Dadu district. Groups were formed of 21 members each, which were assigned different duties. They also met the MPA of the region. Mr. Jaffery informed the members that the Media & Outreach Sub-Committee would be going to Dadu in April to re-centralize these groups and that they intend going to other provinces as well. They have set up a committee to study the environmental degradation of Manchhar Lake, where the poverty is awe-inspiring. Mr. Hasan Jaffery called upon the members present to actively participate in our activities.

FUND RAISING SUB-COMMITTEE

The members were unanimous on having a more energetic Sub-Committee to tackle the question of fund raising which is the need of the hour.

There was a question/answer session and the following decisions were taken.

It was proposed by Mr. Roland that funding should be sought from avenues other than INF and the funding provided by FNF should be gradually phased out over a period of 3 years. The matter was taken to a vote and was rejected by the General Body who suggested that alternative funding must be sought - but phasing out completely of INF was not practical.

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were confirmed.

The Annual General Report was read by Mr. Qazi Faez Isa and seconded by Mrs. Amber Alibhai. The Annual General Report was adopted.

Glass Tower: probe into CM's order directed

Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Abdullah Shah has ordered Commissioner Karachi to conduct an inquiry into his own (CM's) orders regarding Glass Tower on main Clifton Road.

In an official handout issued by the Information Department on April 18, 1996, the Chief Minister ordered the Commissioner to conduct an inquiry into the construction of Glass Tower beyond the allowed plot ratio in the zone.

The CM also directed the Commissioner to inquire into the setback to future widening of Clifton Road caused by unauthorised construction of the building.

In his inquiry order, the CM directed the DC South to immediately stop construction work of Glass Tower till the submission of the inquiry report.

It may be recalled that the KBCA had approved the plan submitted by Excel Builders for Glass Tower on plot No. 2-IT-3 for ground plus four floors as per plot ratio of 1:3 allowed in the zone.

However, Shah relaxed the rules and approved the construction of basement, ground, mezzanine, two parking floors plus 14 upper floors on the same plot. He also allowed relaxation in the covered area and approved a plot ratio of 1:8 beyond the allowed ratio in the zone. All these relaxations he allowed on an application of the builder submitted in January this year.

Courtesy: The News, 19-04-96

Remember that the opportunity for great deeds may never come, but the opportunity for good deeds is renewed day by day. The thing for us to long for is the goodness, not the glory.

My shower first thing in the morning is a wonderfully pleasant and exhilarating way to start the day. I like the warmth, I like a good cake of soap, and I like the idea that I'm part of a civilization that has organized itself to get water to my house and have it warm and waiting for me when I get up. It's difficult to remember to be amazed every day, but it is amazing.

Reader's Digest

The Law Of Energy Conservation:

Energy can neither be created nor destroyed, it is transformed from one form to another.

OR IN OTHER WORDS - What We Are Not Using We Are Wasting.

GREEN OPTIONS:

1. Energy Efficient Technologies.

a. Cogeneration.

b. Combined Cycle Plants.

2. Energy Conservation Practices.

3. Renewable Energy Sources.

a. Biogas.

b. Solar.

c. Wind.

4. Small Scale Hydro Power Plants.

SHEHRI REPORT

Cancer of Illegal Buildings: A Search for its Cure

Shehri-CBE in collaboration with Memon Professional Forum organised a Seminar on Cancer of Illegal Buildings, a search for its Cure, at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Clifton, Karachi on Saturday, January 13th, '96.

OBJECTIVES

1. To create awareness among the citizens of Karachi, that they are the rightful owners of this city, it does not belong to the government, or the politicians, or the bureaucrats, or the KMC. Therefore the citizens must safeguard and protect the city and stand up for their rights, and fulfill their obligations to themselves, their fellow residents and the future generations.
2. The growing need for adequate housing in the city, which must be addressed legitimately and within the law. If the building regulations need to be amended, this must be done with proper planning, public consensus, and transparency.
3. The infrastructure of the metropolis of Karachi must be improved so that the

citizens can have a decent life. The old areas of the which have been overcrowded during the past decades, need to be paid special attention.

The Seminar was organised with a motive to find ways and means to stop illegal misuse of residential areas for purposes of commercialisation by Building Control Authorities and errant builders working in collaboration with each other.

Commissioner, Karachi Division, Mr. Zia-ul-Islam was the chief guest.

Other governmental departments were represented by their respective heads, viz:

Mr. Rauf Akhter Farooqui, Chief Controller, KBCA, (KMC); Brigadier Mansoor Ahmed, MD, KW&SB; Mrs. Mehtab Akher Rashidi, Director General, EPA; Mr. Akhter Ansari, GM, KESC; Mr. Wajahat Hussain, GM, SSGC; Mr. Mansoor Qadri, COB, KBCA/KMC; Mr. Ghulam Dastagir, District Registrar, Mr. Karim Tai, Chairman, ABAD; Mr. Mumtaz Rafec, CCA; Mr. Arif Hasan, Ar-

chitect/IAP; Mr. S.A. Hasan, Engineer, IEP; Mr. Qazi Faez Isa, Chairman, Shehri-CBE.

The Seminar began with an exhibition on illegal commercialisation of residential areas displaying photographs and maps of violated plots. The Commissioner along with other participants viewed the exhibition and tea and refreshments were served.

SPEECHES

Speaker Mr. Rauf Essa spoke for Shehri-CBE and Memon Professional Forum, on the hazards caused due to violations of the building code by the builders mafia, and the ill effects of the same on the lives of innocent citizens.

Mr. Essa gave a detailed account of the illegal highrise constructions in residential areas, which was being done with the connivance of the building control authorities and the builders, without any regard to public convenience and welfare. The resultant environmental hazards and damage will be irreparable, leading to lack of infrastruc-

ture and the traffic congestion, pollution leading to environmental degradation.

Mr. Essa laid stress on the mental and physical health of the future generations which will suffer and produce retarded and inhibited children who will only add to the already existing terrorists, with their do or die activities, destroying the peace of the city.

Mr. Rauf Akhter Farooqui, Chief Controller KBCA (KMC) replied to the allegations lodged against the building control, and said that the fault was not with KBCA, but it was due to the involvement of the Judiciary with the building mafia.

The builders were misusing the NOCs issued by KBCA from ground +1 to ground +4 onwards and building highrises instead.

The KBCA is taking active interest and working in coordination with NGOs to stop illegal construction as far as possible.



Mr. Zia-ul-Islam, Commissioner, Karachi and Mrs. Mehtab Akher Rashidi with others.