



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-April, 2000 Vol. 10/No. 1

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TOWARDS A NEW SYSTEM OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE

As the debate over the recently announced "Devolution of Power", (District Government) plan continues, **Shehri-CBE** in collaboration with the **Friedrich Naumann Foundation**, holds a public consultation session to facilitate public involvement in this process

On the 23rd of March 2000, the Chief Executive of Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf, had announced a District Government Plan, promising transfer of power to the people at the grass roots level.

This plan had been prepared by the recently instituted National Reconstruction Bureau (NRB). The plan has presently been put before the public for

such as workshops, seminars, peoples assemblies, teleconferences and via the internet.

Shehri-CBE in collaboration with



debate and consultation.

The finalized plan will be announced on 14th August, 2000, by the Chief Executive of Pakistan. Debate on the merits and demerits of the plan has continued through various forums

the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, availing of this opportunity, held a public consultation on the proposed plan on 24th June, 2000 at Hotel Marriot, Karachi. The mode adopted for gaining public input was *Working Group Sessions*.



PROPOSED PLAN: A BRIEF

The government announced a plan for devolution of power on March 23, 2000. The plan for devolution of power is part of a seven-point "national reconstruction" agenda. In a first step towards restoring national democracy, the Chief Executive has expressed a desire to establish "the fundamental tier of democracy, the District and Local Governments".

The government proposes a complex structure to achieve "the fruits of grass roots democracy". A proposed structure was presented to the nation by the National Reconstruction Bureau on March 23, 2000. The government has committed to finalizing this document by August 14, 2000, and to bring a process of local government elections by December, 2000.

The structure builds on the basic administrative unit of the district. The primary legislative body will be the District Assem-



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Interested contributors should contact the SHEHRI office for writers guidelines. SHEHRI newsletter readership is from students, professionals, environmentalists, policy makers, NGOs and other organizations.

Views expressed herein do not necessarily express the views of the Editor/Editorial Board.

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EDITORIAL

Of Sages and Utopias

A couple of thousand years ago, in a place called Athens, there came a succession of men, who created a revolution in human thought and laid the foundations for the great scientific and philosophical advances of the modern ages. This, they did by opening the gates of human intellect.

Among these giants in human mankind was Plato, disciple of the great "corrupter of minds", Socrates. Plato wanted to create a utopian world, ruled by the strongest and the wisest among men. In his monumental work, the *Republic*, he spells out the shapes and contours of such a perfect society. First, he sets the stage, by throwing himself a challenge. Socrates, who serves as the mouthpiece of Plato in the *Republic*, forces a friend, Thrysymachus, the Sophist, to commit himself to a definition of "justice".

"Listen then", says the angry Sophist, "I proclaim that *might is right, and justice is the interest of the stronger...The different forms of government make laws, democratic, aristocratic or autocratic, with a view to their respective interests; and these laws, so made by them to serve their interests, they deliver to their subjects as "justice", and punish as unjust anyone who transgresses them.*"

Plato addresses this challenge of hard "immoralization", by pointing out that justice is a relation among individuals, depending on social organization; and that in consequence, it can be studied as part of the structure of a community, than as a quality of personal conduct. In short, only in a utopian world could the term "justice", have any relevance.

Coming now to the real world. We survive within the confines of what the "strong" and the "mighty", decide for everyone. The G-7, the WTO, the UN Security Council, the World Bank, the IMF and the likes, devise the rules of the game as they see fit to serve their own utopian visions. Within the struggling nation states like ours, the ruling classes devise their own little mechanisms for human subjugation. In the real world, Plato's philosopher king does not exist and the wisest among men do not rule only the strongest and the most ruthless. So who will deliver our utopia to us? But perhaps human history has always been like this. The truth is that there is no utopia. Those who search for utopias, often become disillusioned and disoriented.

Life is a constant struggle between the forces of good and evil. The choice is for us to make, which side of the divide do we wish to strengthen. □



**Chairman, NRB, Lt.
Gen. (Retd.)
Syed Tanveer
Hussain Naqvi**

Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Syed Tanveer Hussain Naqvi, Chairman NRB and Mr. Omar Asghar Khan, Federal Minister for Local Bodies & Rural Development, Environment, Labour were the guest speakers. Mr. Farhan Anwar, Executive Member, Shehri-CBE acted as workshop moderator.

Mr. Farhan Anwar, outlined the major objectives and methodology of the workshop.

Mr. Anwar also discussed certain aspects of the plan such as the structural and administrative arrangements.

Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Syed Tanveer Hussain Naqvi, appreciated the initiative of Shehri-CBE in arranging the session. General Naqvi said that the plan provides choices to the people. In response to a concern being raised that the elected representatives and the civil service may clash with each other, he said friction may be inevitable, however, the disputes will be resolved through checks and balances within the proposed system. He said that a mechanism for conflict resolution will be provided.



**Federal Minister for
Local Bodies & Rural
Development,
Mr. Omar Asghar
Khan**

C-Pg. 1 (Plan Brief)

bly of 66 seats. Of these, 50 would be elected directly, while 10 women, 3 peasant/workers, and 3 minority members will be elected directly. Those elected directly will also be the Union Council Chairperson. The Assembly will be presided over by a Deputy Chief Mayor, who will be elected directly by the people of the district. The Deputy Chief Mayor will contest the seat on a joint ticket with a candidate for the Chief Mayor. The latter will be the district head, elected by the people, and responsible for setting the direction and heading the district administration.

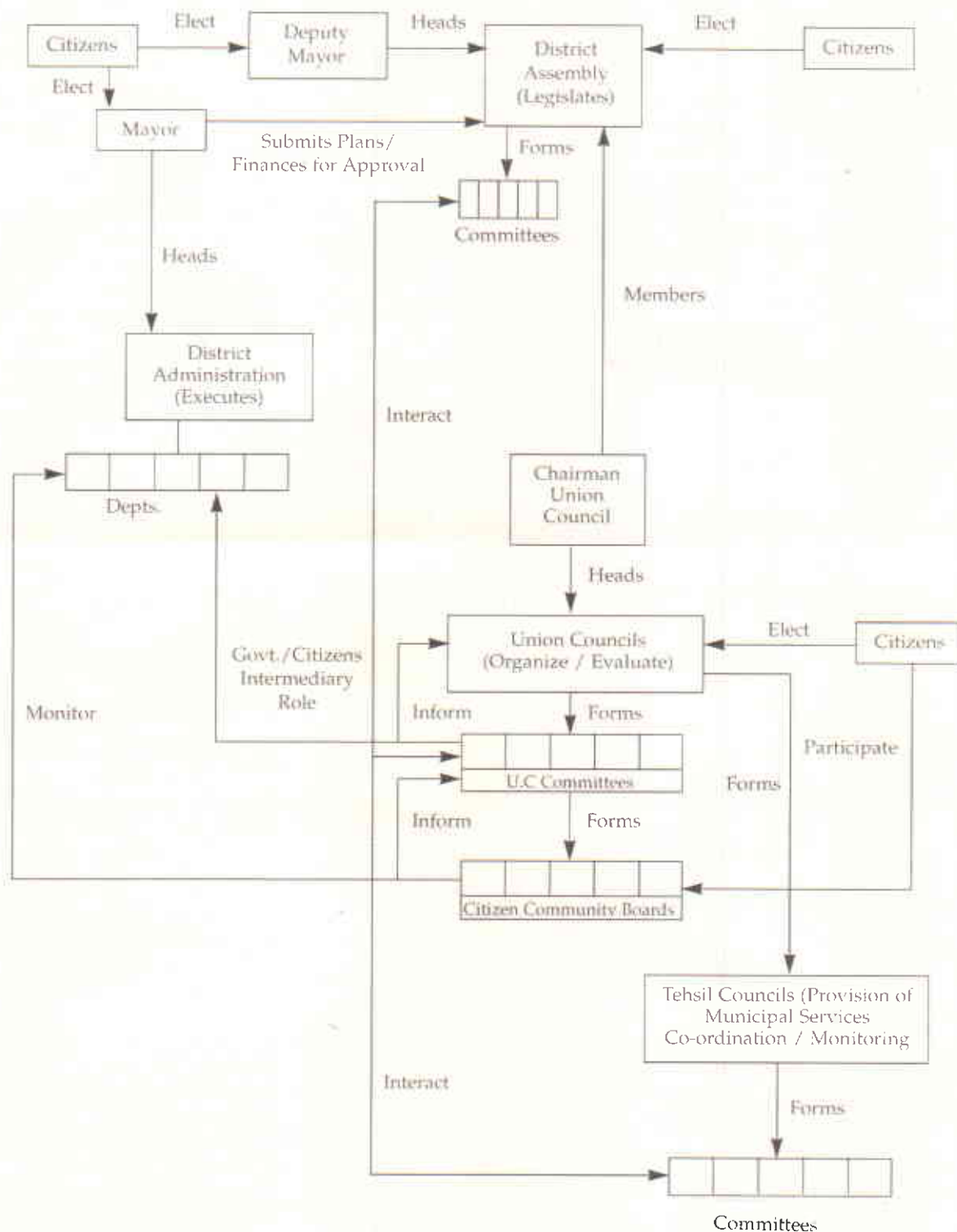
The district administration will be made up of 13 departments, headed by District Officers, and coordinated overall by a District Coordination Officer, who will work under the Chief Mayor. District Officers will be appointed by the Chief Mayor and ratified by the District Assembly. The Assembly will also be able to remove District Officers with a two thirds majority. A key legislative power of the Assembly will be to approve district development and annual plans, the district budget, creation of new taxes and making new-byelaws. They will also be able to form specialized committees to oversee specific issues and to generate policy input. Police will remain a provincial subject, while the district judiciary system will be reformed, including withdrawal of judicial and quasi judicial powers from administrative departments.

The district structure will be supplemented by a system of Tehsil Councils and Union Councils. The Tehsil Council will provide municipal services to the Tehsil and monitor the functioning of district government officials at that level. It will be headed by a mayor, elected from a Tehsil Council, which in turn will be made up of 34 members elected by Union Councilors, 5 women seats, 2 minority seats and peasant seats.

The Union Council will be elected directly by the people: 8 men and 8 women elected directly, 4 men and 4 women workers/peasant, and 1 man and 1 woman minority representative. The Union Councils will form specialized committees to monitor and evaluate performance of government departments. They will act as intermediaries between communities and the government.

The key to direct citizen participation will be in the Citizen's Community Boards. These boards will be created by the Union Council committees at a village/town level to monitor government performance. They will be officially notified and their evaluations will be noted by the government departments. Citizens will also be able to participate directly through Village Councils. □

Proposed Devolution of Power Plan



Plan visualization by Farhan Anwar, Shehri-CBE



**Executive Member,
Shehri-CBE,
Mr. Farhan Anwar**

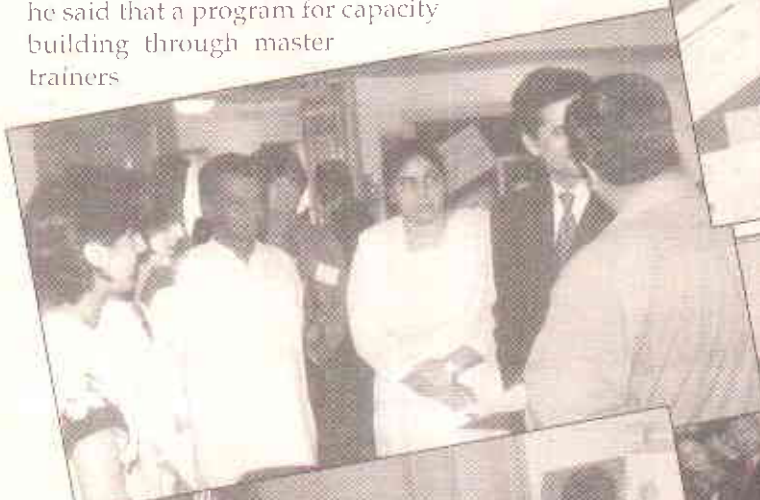
He pointed out that police will still remain a provincial subject, however, the District Police will comprise of people who reside in that particular district. He added that inter-district co-ordination will be a provin-

common assumption, women participation in community efforts in rural areas is at times higher than that of men.

Mr. Khan said that due to this reason they have been given equal repre-

With regards the subject of political training of elected representatives, he said that a program for capacity building through master trainers

cial subject.
For larger
cities like



and planners will be prepared.

General Naqvi said that citizens role is being enhanced as citizens cannot decide against themselves. He praised the role of citizens organisations like Shehri and CPLC and said that through the setting of Citizen Community Boards, this role will increase.

General Naqvi's speech was followed by working group sessions. Five working groups were formed and the results of their deliberations were later presented to the Federal Minister, Mr. Omar Asghar Khan.

Mr. Omar Asghar Khan in his concluding speech disagreed with a general impression that in rural areas, women participation will be low. He said that contrary to this

tion in union councils. In district councils, their participation is lesser due to the mobility problem. Mr. Khan said that the powers of the district assemblies may gradually be increased, however initially it may not be possible.

Mr. Khan informed the participants that work on electoral reform is in progress. This would include a code of conduct on electioneering. Strong media involvement in the electioneering process will also be sought.

In the end, Mr. Farhan Anwar thanked the participants and guest speakers and concluded the workshop. □

SHEHRI ACTIVITIES

Shehri Seminar Building Bye-Laws

(Saturday, May 27, 2000, Hotel Marriott, Karachi)

A committee was formulated by the governor in May 1999. This committee was headed by Mr. Kaleemuddin, Chairman, Pakistan Council of Architect & Town Planners (PCATP). The task was to update the Karachi Building and Town Planning draft. It was decided that whatever they present should be in the interest of the people of Karachi and the city environment and must not reflect any vested interests.

that they play. These professionals should not escape from their responsibility

- It was recommended that Building Control and Town Planning should be made an autonomous body and other committees be brought under this autonomous body.

In the Shehri Seminar, this draft was put before the public and the



**Director General,
KDA, Brig. (Retd.)
Zaheer Kadri**

that the committee consisted of Architects only. ABAD felt that the builders were not represented and there was inadequate representation of public through Shehri. Thus in order to invite suggestions from all quarters, the bye-laws have been made open for discussion, through this seminar



Guest Speakers

Mr. Nooruddin Ahmed, representative, Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) emphasized that what is really required in the city is the need to channelize the haphazard growth that is taking place. The city is growing at a rate of 6% per annum, 3% by birth and 3% by immigration. He added that the growth cannot be halted, rather it has to be managed and justice is not being done by just fighting over the bye-laws and not doing what is required.

The committee considered the following planning options:

- Placement of definitions with precise meanings
- New definitions were added
- Elimination of ambiguities/inconsistencies present in the regulations.
- Efforts have been made to choke all ill practices and protect the interest of the buyers
- The planners were given a vital role but they were also made responsible for the role

relevant government sectors for the first time, for debate and consultation.

Mr. Kaleemuddin said that the population of the city was on the rise and the socio-economic and cultural patterns have changed. Therefore there is a need to up date the building bye-laws in order to ensure planned growth. He further added that he felt that various interest groups were not adequately represented in the committee. The Association of Consulting Engineers felt



**Mr. Nooruddin
Ahmed, Pakistan
Engineering Council**



Seminar Moderator,
Mr. Roland deSouza

Mr. Nooruddin said that the center of the city is always re-planned in most mega cities. In Karachi, the cancerous haphazard growth has created problems and solution cannot be to stop growth rather it should be channeled. For example if we take a zone bounded by P.E.C.H.S., Shahrah-Faisal and Shaheed-e-Millat and decide to convert it from a low density area to a high density area, then planning has to be done accordingly.

The speaker said that up till now, the practice has been to take bits and pieces of old bye-laws and amend them. This is not in keeping with the requirements of the growing city and new bye-laws will have to be framed to address the growing needs.

He put forward the following suggestions to stop haphazard commercialization:

- Determine areas where multi-story buildings can be constructed and then the government should do the required planning.
- Redevelop the Saddar Shopping area and declare it a traffic free zone.
- Have multi storied car parking facilities and a shuttle service in the area.

The speaker said that he feels that the bye-laws are being kicked

around and nobody seems to own them. He suggested that perhaps Shehri is a good platform to bring all the actors together.

Brig. (Retd.) Zaheeruddin Kadri, Director General, KDA, stated that the Karachi Development Authority and the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation have chalked out a plan to provide better parking facilities to motorists. It would discourage the trend of haphazard parking on roads and help restore the traffic flow.

Regarding the city's master plan, he said the KDA's Master Plan department had started a belated exercise of framing the city's Master Plan-2000.

"Although it was prepared in 1993, it was never notified", he said.

Speaking about building bye-laws, the KDA chief said, uniformed building bylaws were necessary for the entire city, to discourage haphazard growth in the city.

He said dozens of agencies having land in the city and each having its own rules and regulations for building and town planning had been adding to confusion.

He said one of the salient features of the proposed building bye-laws would be that all the 15 land-holding agencies would be bound to implement them in letter and in spirit.

He said the committee formed by the former governor for updating the Building Rules and Regulations and Town-Planning Bye-Laws would complete its exercise by June and the same is likely to

be notified by mid July.

"Unified building and town planning regulations are needed for Karachi to ensure an organized growth and development".

Mr. Mumtaz Hashmi, representative, Karachi Building Control Authority (KBCA), stressed upon adopting a professional approach in the matter and said that the change or conversion of land from residential to commercial usage be done only in zones declared to be commercial.

Further, technical committees should be setup and unqualified persons should be discouraged. The speaker suggested that minimum standards should not be relaxed.

The speeches were followed by a further enlightening question and answer session. The speakers answered general queries as well as personal inquiries.

A question was put forward by Mr. Shafi Mohammadi, former judge, Sindh High Court. He asked whether KBCA, KDA or private influential NGOs are responsible for deciding if some building under construction is legal and illegal.

Qazi Faez Isa, Chairperson, Shehri-CBE, responded to the question by saying that if KBCA was working efficiently, there wasn't any need for NGOs to go to court. He accentuated that the judge has the power to probe and he should exercise his judicial mind and decide upon the case.

Mr. Roland de'Souza, member Shehri, conducted the seminar and concluded it with a vote of thanks. □

10th Annual General Meeting Shehri-CBE

(Saturday, May 20th, 2000, Shehri-CBE Office)

AGENDA

1. To confirm the minutes of the Ninth Annual General Meeting.
2. To adopt the General Secretary's report of Shehri's activities in 1999.
3. To adopt the audited statement of accounts for the year ended on December 31 1999.
4. To appoint and fix remunerations for the auditors for the year 2000.
5. Any other business with the permission of the chair.

Agenda Item # 1

Mrs. Amber Ali Bhai, General Secretary, Shehri read out the minutes of Shehri AGM 1999, which was held on April 3, 1999. It was proposed for adoption by Mr. Syed S. Haider, a member and seconded by another member, Mr. Derrick Dean and the minutes were confirmed.

Agenda Item # 2

Mrs. Amber Ali Bhai read out the Annual Report of Shehri activities along with the details of the accounts for the year 1999. It was proposed by Mr. Farhan Anwar and seconded by Mr. Farooq Fazal and the Annual Report was adopted.

Agenda Item # 3

The details of the accounts were given. Audited accounts were circulated amongst the members. Certain heads were explained.

Such as the rent was not shown for a period of time to adjust the loan given to Mr. Navaid after he met with the accident.

Mrs. Amber Ali Bhai explained that Shehri was dependent on the donor for 75% of the funding for the year 1999. The rest of the 25% was raised from Shehri's own funds. She further divulged that Shehri also raises some amount from the residents for whom the cases are being filed by Shehri. Other members were also encouraged to help the organization raise funds.

The participants were informed that Tax Exemption Certificate has been acquired for a period of one year. As a pre requisite of this certificate, Rs. 50,000 has been kept in government securities.

The accounts were proposed by Mr. Muslehuddin and seconded by Mr. Derrick Dean and the accounts were adopted.

Agenda Item # 4

The remuneration for the auditors, Mr. Ovais Hyder Zaman and Company, Chartered Accountants, for the year 2000 was fixed at Rs. 4,500. This was proposed by Mr. Haroon Khan and seconded by Ms. Azra Aqeel and the amount

was accepted.

Agenda Item # 5

- Regarding the Bahadurabad waste management, a briefing on KMC hierarchy has been obtained. This information was shared with the members.
- Further the members were informed that the organization is seeking to organize activities and have volunteers come in to assist with the work. For this purpose, various schools



Mrs. Amber Ali Bhai, General Secretary, Shehri-CBE, Chaired the AGM

will be approached for school going children of ages between 15 to 18 years.

- The members were given invitations for the upcoming seminar, being held on the 27 of May. Dr. Raza briefed the members on the draft of building bye-laws that have been formulated by the committee constructed by the last Governor and are now open for general public opinion and recommendations. To give a voice to peoples point of view, Shehri is organizing this seminar and the members were encouraged

to attend it.

Certain suggestions were put forward to the managing committee. The details are as follows:

- Mrs. Raffat proposed raising membership fee from Rs. 300 to Rs. 500. Two other members opposed the idea saying that since Shehri is an NGO, the fee should remain the same as it is payable with ease. Further



they said that who-so-ever wishes to pay more can do so as donations.

- Mr. Haider put forward the idea of embarking on a fund raising campaign of the kind done by Aga Khan which raised 2 crore rupees in 4 months time. Since, Mr. Haider had been a part of this fundraiser and thus has some experience in the field, he was asked to take up the exercise himself. Thus Mr. Haider was appointed in-charge of the Fund Raising Committee for Shehri. He was nominated by Mr. Dean and seconded by Dr. Gardezi and Mr. Farhan.

- Mr. Nadeem Ahmed suggested that perhaps if the time of



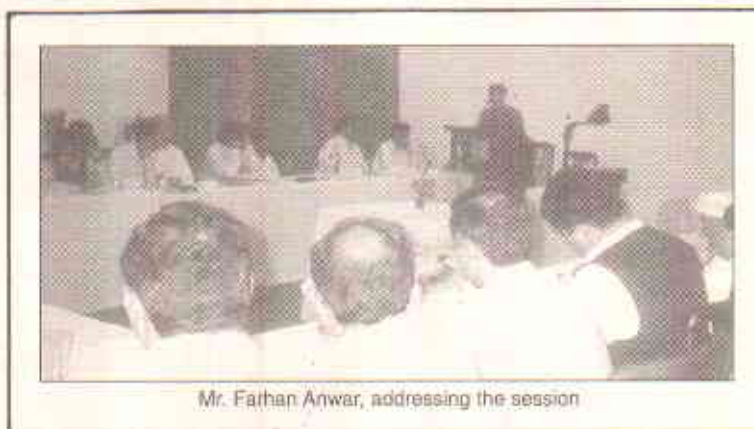
meeting be shifted to 5 o'clock, the attendance can improve.

- Mr. Mohammad Ali Rasheed proposed setting up of a monitoring committee for KMC.

As no further business was to be discussed, the meeting was closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair and to all present. □

Finding the link between conservation and governance

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Pakistan, has recently formulated the Chitral District Conservation Strategy. In order to explore the possibilities of developing linkages and integration with the recently announced District Governance Plan of the Gov-



Mr. Farhan Anwar, addressing the session

ernment of Pakistan, a roundtable conference was held in Chitral on June 7, 2000. Prominent citizens belonging to the civil society and government sector attended the conference. Mr. Farhan Anwar, Executive Member, Shehri-CBE was one of the guest speaker on the occasion. □

Young Shehri Activities

Shehri Youth members visit Citizens Police Liaison Committee (CPLC), Central Reporting Cell (Jan 24, 2000)

An educational and awareness raising visit of the Central Reporting Cell of the Citizens Police Liaison Committee was arranged for the youth members of Shehri (belonging to various higher education city institutes of Karachi) by the Shehri management. Mrs. Mansoor, Administrator Shehri, Muhammad Rehan Ashraf, Asst. Co-ordinator, and Farhan Anwar, Executive Member

At the CRC office Mr. Zabir received the Shehri group and conducted the visit. The visiting team was shown around the various sections of the CRC office which included the data collection/storing, digital mapping, and crime detection facilities.

ods are used to develop crime patterns, detect criminals and document the related information. A Geographic Information



Shehri, accompanied the young members.

kidnapping for ransom. State of the art technologies and meth-

The visiting team was informed, how the CPLC is assisting the police and the citizens in fighting crimes, such as car thefts and

System (GIS) based, digital map of Karachi has also been prepared and is constantly being updated.

After the conducted tour of the facility, a question and answers session was held in which Mr. Zabir attended to the various questions of the visiting team. □



Trip to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Wetland Centre (May 19, 2000)

The Wetlands are called the wet and wild treasure, and with a good reason too. People all over the world have recognized their importance and conservation organizations are working to save them. To save Wetlands for wildlife and people, WWF Pakistan has set up a Wetland Center, at Sandspit, Karachi, reflecting the importance attached to bringing people and wetlands and wildlife together for the benefit of all.

As yet another attempt to educate and involve the youth of our society in the conservation work, Shehri organized a trip to the Wetland Center on the 19th of May 2000. Students of the Karachi Cambridge School were taken to Sandspit on an educational and recreational tour.

The school children were first given an introductory session by Mr. Jahangir Durrane of WWF. He briefed the students about the biodiversity and importance of the Wetland ecosystem of the country. Mangrove swamps often serve as the border between dry land and seas. They are formed in estuaries and muddy inlets on tropical coasts. Mangroves cover 160,000 out of 600,000 hectares along the Indus delta.

More than thirty species of mangrove plants are found in the world. Only eight species are represented in Pakistan, of which only three types survive today. The species commonly observed include *Avicennia Marina*, *Rhizophora* and *Ceriops*. The cause of the low number of surviving

species of mangroves is said to be due to low rainfall and increasing pollution.

Mangrove forests are one of the most unique eco-systems in the world. They support a wide variety of wildlife, mainly acting as nursery grounds for fish and



crustacean. Pakistan's entire fish and shrimp industry depends upon them. Moreover, mangroves are valuable sources of food, fuel, timber and medicine.

Despite the many uses and importance of these plants, increasingly larger tracts of mangrove forests are being lost. Pollution and dumping of rubbish are taking their toll on the swamps. The three main threats to mangrove forests



are caused by over-grazing, over-fishing and uncontrolled cutting for use as fuel-wood. WWF

staff is working to create awareness amongst villagers towards sustainable use of the mangroves.

The replanting of mangroves is being done, involving the villagers so that they

see the necessity of the mangrove management program and realize its long-term benefit.



The session was followed by an activity related to the introduction. The students were taken to

the nearby mangrove swamps to have a direct observation of the mangrove eco system.

The building of the Wetland Center is a solid example of WWF's Commitment



towards saving the mangroves and Wetlands in Pakistan. With the establishment of this place, right in the middle of mangroves at Sandspit, Pakistan joins the league of countries where work on

the wetlands has been done at an advanced stage.

—Report prepared by Sadaf Khan, Coordinator
Shehri-CBE

OUR NATIONAL SYMBOLS

Recently the National Security Council and the Cabinet have announced the historic decision on Pakistan's national symbols. As notified by the Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development, Islamabad, the national animal, bird, flower and tree for Pakistan are:

- Jasmine (Jasmine grandiflora);
- Flare-Horned Markhor (Capra falconeri),
- Chakor (Alectoris Chukar),
- Deodar (Cedrus deodara).

For a nation, such symbols are of paramount importance because they:

- Deepen and intensify a sense of national identity. They are the visual symbols which the nation can relate to.
- Make for subjects and motifs which are of use to painters, writers, poets, postal stamp designers and researchers.
- Put the entire subject of the flora and fauna in a sharper perspective giving impetus to new social studies, projects and research.
- Provide symbols for emblazonry, heraldry and signage.
- Convey to people in distant lands an

image of the flora and fauna of the country.

Jasmine: This symbol out of the four has been once again selected to be the national flower of our country.

Markhor: The animal, markhor is confined to the valleys of the Indus River and its tributaries in the Karakorams and to the valley of the Kunar River (in Chitral) in the Hindukush range. The flare-horned Markhor is a threatened species. However, since the inception of the Chitral Gol National Park in 1984, the flare-horned Markhor is leading a somewhat secure existence.

Chakor: The national bird of Pakistan is found in all the four provinces. It is both a house-pet as well as a bird of wilderness. The partridge occurs in the higher valleys of Swat and Indus Kohistan and throughout Balochistan. Also, a small population survives in the Kirthar Range of Sindh and the Salt Range in Punjab.

Deodar: The tree Deodar, which has been selected as the national tree, grows all over Pakistan and even on the Himalayas at elevations varying from 4,000 to 9,000 feet. It is an important timber tree whose wood is used extensively for building railway sleepers, furniture and general carpentry. □



CONSERVATION ALERT

Kirthar National Park: On the endangered list?

As controversy rages over the proposed gas exploration project in the Kirthar National Park, a citizen campaign has been activated to protect the natural environment of the Park. Following is a statement of concern from the citizen groups.

While the undersigned, representing environmentally concerned organizations, are deeply troubled and outraged by the recent turn of events in the proposed exploration for gas project in the Kirthar National Park, Sindh.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the 'Kirthar Baseline Study', were finalized in a consultative workshop in Karachi on January 21-22, 2000. The primary objective of the Kirthar Baseline Study was to acquire, assemble, evaluate and present baseline data on the relevant ecological, human and environmental characteristics of the Kirthar National Park.

In this workshop, citizen groups, Govt. of Pakistan/Sindh, Premier Shell and Melbourne Enterprises International agreed that the formation of a Project Steering Committee (PSC) and a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to monitor and facilitate the process of independent analysis and evaluation, was required to ensure and safeguard the integrity of the whole process.

A public and unequivocal commitment was made by the Govt. of Sindh, that the initiation or otherwise of any Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process of the proposed gas exploration project in the Kirthar National Park (Dumber Concession Area) would be subject to the findings of the Baseline Study and upon the outcome of the subsequent public debate and consultation process.

However, on January 23rd, only a day after the conclusion of the

TOR Workshop, it sadly became quite clear that these commitments were not meant to be honored, when the Sindh Wildlife Conservator, Mr. Mahboob Alam Ansari, was reported in the press to have stated that 'At a later stage, an Environmental Impact Assessment would be conducted, probably by a Canada based firm'.

Since then, the Premier - Shell Pakistan B.V. and the Govt. of Sindh have gone on to violate the spirit of the agreements reached after a long process of public consultation, aimed at building trust and evolving participatory mechanisms. Despite the fact that most of the Baseline Study field work is reported to have been completed, not a single meeting of the PSC has been called. The TAG is reported to have met only once. Showing complete disregard to their public and solemn pledges, the Govt. of Sindh have contracted a Canadian consulting group, Agra Earth & Environmental to conduct the EIA of the proposed gas exploration project. This process has been activated and is running parallel to the Baseline Study.

It is also the case that field work on the Baseline Study has gone on despite the fact that the Sindh Law Department registered comments and sought clarifications on certain aspects of the contract and the Sindh Govt. signed the contract only after 70% of the study had been completed. This fact alone, casts serious doubts over the legality of the whole exercise.

This undue haste and the bull in a china shop attitude, which seems

to hold no respect for the relevant legal and moral aspects of the whole issue, is extremely deplorable. The process established and the decisions taken have been overlooked at the expense of the resources of Sindh, and at the cost of a maturing relationship between the various stakeholder groups. Gas reserves, if these do indeed exist in Kirthar are not going anywhere. However, seriously damaged is the public trust and faith in the transparency and legitimacy of the whole process.

We demand that the ongoing EIA process should be halted immediately and the TOR of the Baseline Study be formally approved. The PSC be notified and start serving the purpose for which it was agreed to be formed and the technical, financial and management mechanisms being invoked for the Baseline Study should be made transparent and accountable to all the stakeholder groups.

The environmental and related concerns attached to this project are very real, and the importance of involving civil society cannot be allowed to be undermined in a manner demonstrated recently.

Endorsed by

- SDPI, Islamabad
- Sungi Development Foundation, Pakistan
- Shirkat Gah, Pakistan
- WWF Pakistan
- Shehri-CBE, Karachi
- Creed, Karachi
- Piler, Karachi
- KAWS, Karachi



Healthy City Karachi Project

An interesting project of the York University, Toronto, Canada, targeting the health and environment sector in Karachi has recently been initiated. Shehri-CBE is acting as the host organization for the project

Historically, cities have played an important role in the areas of economic growth, human development and the promotion of cultural diversity. They have generated tremendous energy, ideas and opportunities for their inhabitants. A city's prosperity has always been linked with that of a nation.

During the last decade, the world has experienced a tremendous growth in the size and population of cities. This is mainly because of natural growth, rural-urban migration, and in-migration of refugees and resettled persons to the cities. The World Bank estimates that by the year 2020, almost half of the world will live in cities. This trend is more visible in the South. In Pakistan, according to the Pakistan National Conservation Strategy, "today more than two-third of the population lives in rural (areas), but urban growth is considerably faster (4.4% per annum in 1972-81 versus 2.4% in rural areas). Given current trends, the country is expected to become predominantly urban by the second decade of the 21st century."

This enormous growth in the urban areas has put more pressures on the governments to deal with rising demands for basic services such as; clean water, electricity, housing and proper infrastructure. Presently, most of the governments in the South are ill-equipped to provide these services to the present generation and are not prepared to face the challenge of the urban transformation during the next millennium. They have inadequate

resource and well-trained staff to meet the needs of their citizens.

This failure has resulted in a tremendous growth of illegal squatter settlements with no or little facilities, linked with diseases and unhealthy living environment. It is also inter-linked with the widespread growth of poverty in urban slums, which poses a threat to the social and economic fabric of these fast



growing cities. The increase of violence in Karachi, Dhaka and other cities of South Asia is one of many examples of this threat.

There is a strong need to build stronger ties between the government and civil society organizations. Actions such as these will strengthen the impacts of government policies and will pave the path for a healthy and peaceful society.

There is a growing interest among various civil society organizations and governmental agencies to initiate projects and policies that can promote health and well being in cities. The International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the

World Health Organization (WHO) and various UN agencies and international organizations have been searching ways of promoting health in urban environment. Most of these initiatives are based on the concept that a healthy, safe and equitable city can guarantee sustainable human development.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has been most active in promoting this concept of healthy cities all around the world. The healthy cities model is primarily based on the WHO Health for All (HFA) concept. The HFA and the Ottawa Charter of Health Promotion, broadens the definition of health promotion, defining it as the process of enabling people to take control over and to improve their health; to reach a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being.

The Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion also specifies the fundamental conditions and resources for health. These include; peace, shelter, education, food, income, a stable eco-system, sustainable resources, social justice and equity. In other words, we can describe a healthy city as a city that invests in the well being of its people, improves its environment, and expands its resources, so that citizens can support each other in achieving their highest potential.

In Pakistan urban areas are also encountering similar problems of inadequate resources, widespread poverty, lack of good governance, absence of civic partic-



ipation, crumbling infrastructure and an enormous increase in the size of population. Karachi is the largest city of Pakistan, with roughly 12 million inhabitants and is projected to attain a population of over 20 million by the year 2020.

Being the largest and most cosmopolitan city of Pakistan, it is ill prepared to provide basic facilities to its citizens, cannot escape the daily hazards of poor sanitation, insufficient water quality and quantity, environmental pollution caused by industrial pollutants, motor vehicles and solid wastes generated at homes. There is a complete breakdown of the communication among the civil society groups and the government at the local level. The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) has been run by an appointed administrator instead of an elected local council for the last ten years.

During the recent years, there has been an increase in the frustration among the residents of Karachi about the unhealthy state of affairs in their city. Various NGO's and CBO's have initiated projects that are achieving good results in

improving their living environment and public participation. However these are limited to few areas of the city due to the size of these organizations and lack of support from the governmental agencies.

The *Healthy City Karachi Project* will work closely with the civil

During the recent years, there has been an increase in the frustration among the residents of Karachi about the unhealthy state of affairs in their city. Various NGO's and CBO's have initiated projects that are achieving good results in improving their living environment and public participation. However these are limited to few areas of the city due to the size of these organizations and lack of support from the governmental agencies.

society organizations and government agencies and organize various activities to initiate this dialogue. The methodology will include focus group consultations and a major search conference, involving stakeholders from different sectors to meet, discuss and formulate strategy for a sustainable healthy city. The project will also conduct individual interviews with government officials, NGO's and CBO's and other key

stakeholders. The research during the initial phase of the project will address four key areas;

1. It will investigate the state of health in Karachi
2. It will determine the current level of cooperation between the government and the civil society.
3. It will explore ways of promoting participatory forms of governance in the city.
4. It will inspire the residents and the local government to work together towards Healthy City status.

The research will help the local, provincial and federal governments in Pakistan to formulate policies and projects which will strive towards health promotion in Karachi. It will also help the NGO's and international donor agencies to focus their efforts on improving the living environment of Karachi. The processes such as focus groups consultations, and search conferences will result in more cooperation between the civil society organizations, and the governments to promote the healthy city plan at the policy level.

The research project is being led by Muhammad Tariq Khan, a graduate student at the Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto, Canada. Tariq is originally from Karachi, Pakistan and has been involved in various environmental activities in Karachi before going to York University. Tariq is assisted in this project by his two York University colleagues, Mehreen Wadiwalla and Tanya Anand. The project will be supervised by a team of faculty members from the Faculty of Environmental Studies. The team will include: William Found, Trevor Hancock, David Morely and Rodger Schwass.

Shehri-CBE are acting as host organization and facilitators for this project in Karachi. Farhan Anwar, Executive Member, Shehri-CBE is the local resource person for the project. □



URBAN MANAGEMENT

Towards sustainable mega cities

Prof. Kauser Bashir Ahmad informs about the working a few international programs and networks aimed at facilitating sustainable growth in the megacities of the world

For several millennia, cities have been centers of culture and crucibles for the advancement of civilizations. Rapid transformation is taking place in 'ordinary' cities turning them to Mega-Cities and from a predominantly rural to a predominantly urban world. In 1800, only 3% of the people resided in the cities. By 1950, 29% of the world's population lived in urban areas, which climbed to 42% in 1985 and shortly it is to cross the 50% mark.

The biggest city in the world in 1950 had just over 12 million people. In the year 2000 there will be 16 cities with that many; or more; and 23 with over 10 million, 18 of which shall be in the developing world.

As cities explode into mega-cities, urban decision makers and residents are confronted with a common set of challenges. To create livable cities in the 21st century will necessitate:

- Re-allocation of existing resources to the advantage of the urban poor.
- Sustained growth without jeopardising the environment.
- Innovations in urban infrastructure to serve the entire city population, and,
- Decrease in the time-lag between ideas and implementation.

There are five major obstacles to that creative leap to a new order:

- Prevailing sense of hopelessness and despair
- Outmoded assumptions of

policy-makers

- Isolation among sectors, disciplines and cities
- Counter productive incentives
- Resistance to change

Redressal of above-mentioned obstacles in itself, ensures the sustainability of large cities. In some subtle ways the process has started to 'happen', especially through the efforts of the informal sector.

One of the most significant impact is related to change of perception of certain issues, in the eyes of the planners and policy makers; i.e.

Old Assumptions

- Cities are a problem
- Migrants and Squatters are a parasitic drain on the economy
- Waste is something to discard
- Solutions come only from government and experts and planners
- The 'formal sector' is the major generator of a city's income, housing and service delivery
- The cities shall ever keep growing

New Visions

- Cities are source of advancement and economic growth
- They are a great resource with the aspirations and drive to build the city of the future;

- 'Waste' consists of valuable resources for urban development
- The most creative solution often arise from the bottom up!
- The informal sector is the major source of income generation, housing and social service delivery.
- Already, in case of the devel-

oping world, decentralization is taking place relying on the benefits of technology and increased communications.

Some of the major movements that

are helping the mega cities of the world to regain their lost dignity and honour are enumerated as under:

- The Mega-Cities Project (MCP)
- The Metropolitan Environmental Improvement Program (MEIP) in Asia
- The Urban Management Program for Asia and the Pacific (UMPAP)

The Mega-Cities Project

"Mega-Cities Project" is dedicated to reducing the time-lag between urban innovations and their implementation. The project combines theory and practice in its search for successful approaches to improving the conditions of urban life.



Quite often, the best solutions are offered by the people themselves

Mega-Cities approach is based on collaborative efforts among the various sectors to increase the efficiency in finding urban innovations and multiplying them for the greatest impact.

The "Mega-Cities Project" promotes the adoption of innovative solutions which are socially equitable, ecologically sustainable, politically participatory, culturally adaptable and economically viable.

The Mega-Cities Project was initiated in 1987, with the goal of shortening the lag-time between ideas and their implementation by promoting the transfer of urban innovations among the world's largest cities. By documenting and transferring innovative local solutions to urban problems, the Mega-Cities Project enables cities to replicate successes while avoiding mistakes.

In the past eight years, Mega-Cities have developed an active network of coordinating teams in 21 (out of the 25) largest cities of the world, most of which are in developing countries.

With support from the Urban Management Programme and UNDP, the MCP has been able to prepare case-studies on the most successful innovations that deal with alleviating poverty and regenerating the data base of urban innovations

and produces case studies and videos of the most successful and transferable among them.

The Mega-Cities Project at present, consists of 8 components each with specific functions.

- **Transnational Network**

A network of institutions and leaders in 21 of the world's largest cities (two i.e. Beijing and Moscow are on hold).

- **Mega-Cities Coordinators**

Individual project leaders for each of the cities as anchor persons for the global network.

- **Host Institutions**

Centre in each city to provide basic facilities for project activities.

- **Multi-Sectoral Steering Committee**

A group composed of opinion leaders from government, business, NGO's, grassroots groups, media and academia, to provide broad guidance to the work of the team.

- **Board of Directors**

It is to comprise business, government, development assistance, foundations, academia, NGO's religion and the arts.

- **Global Advisory Board**

This is to provide status and legitimacy for the network.

The participating cities have achieved commendable breakthroughs. Each city started out by saying they had no successes, only failures, problems and needs; but with assistance from the Mega-Cities Project, every one of them was able to identify between 20 to 200 successful innovations. Awareness of their own achievements made them considerably more receptive to learning from those of the other cities. The use of the network of cities as a laboratory for experimentation, as well as a reference group for achievement, is creating a catalytic effect on the process of urban problem solving.

Innovative Urban Strategies Transfers

There are hundreds of innovations that have been already identified by the respective local Mega-Cities Coordinators, some of which are in the process of transfer to other Mega-Cities.

A random list follows:

- a) Rio de Janeiro - Reforestation of Favelas
- b) Buenos Aires - The PIAS Plan (Community Kitchen Project)
- c) New York City - Environmental Benefit Project
- d) Mexico City-SIRDO/Solid Waste and Sewerage System
- e) Accra - Recycling Waste for Market Gardening
- f) Lagos - Community Clean-up Programme
- g) Delhi-ASHA-Action for Securing Health for All
- h) Bombay-CORO-Pay Toilet Project
- i) Jakarta-Greening Program at Bidara Eina
- j) Rio de Janeiro-Street Children's Programme
- i) Karachi-OPP-Orangi Pilot Project
- j) Karachi-(CPLC) Citizen Police Liason Committee
- k) Karachi-KKB-Khuda Ki Bustee Project

and hundreds of others, actively engaged in the process of "sustaining the urban mega-centers" in the developing world as well as the developed one.

MEIP Evidence

(The Metropolitan Environment Improvement Programme-in Asia 1989)

"Asias' cities, now and in future are powerful engines of economic growth and human development. Urban Asia faces the increasing peril of environmental degradation, yet the same dynamic of development offers the



potential to reverse this deterioration; and create viable living environments" MEI/UNDP-Report.

The 'four pillars' that are to support emerging 'sustainable' and successful Mega-Cities are enumerated:

Resource Interrelationship

The rapid growth of urban population, industry and associated economic activities is taking place at High Densities in Limited Space. This would only prove effective if a suitable measure of interrelationships on the environment and natural resources base, supporting the city region, is practically achieved. This would entail proper focus and monitoring of development policies and projects. The NGO's and the informal sector, and indeed the private citizens will act as a 'watch dog' of what is going around - this is a 'participatory' mode of progress parameters.

Sectoral Versus Interactive Strategies

Action must stem from a framework that accounts for impacts across development sector and ensures the involvement of all stakeholders in the life of the urban community and of its natural support systems. This is most relevant as the traditional sectoral development strategies have proven to be inadequate.

Environmental Safeguards

It is fully recognized that all development strategies for our Mega-Cities and their metropolitan regions must acknowledge their viability as 'Spatial Systems'. The Metropolitan region is to be seen as spatial systems in which development activities can be planned, implemented and monitored in light of their impact on air, water

and land on those whose health and livelihood depends on these resources.

Coordination Framework

In order to translate good intentions into practical results a framework is needed to develop necessary strategies, action plans, investment preparation and networking with civic and community groups.

Initially the MEIP concept was endorsed by five national governments. The first phase began in Beijing, Bombay, Colombo, Jakarta and Metro Manila (1990) and in 1993 Kathmandu joined; thus, initiating its second phase and by becoming a constituent partner of UNDP's Urban Management Program for Asia and Pacific (UMPAP). Programme objectives include:

- a) assist urban metropolitan area develop environmental management strategies and action plans in the context of urban and industrial development.
- b) strengthen the institutional and legislative framework for environmental planning, monitoring and enforcement.
- c) help to identify and prepare high priority investment projects and mobilize necessary resources.
- d) promote community led efforts in improving the living environment, and
- e) initiate a process of cross-country exchange of information and of lessons learned.

(Source: MEIP Literature)

MEIP's Project Approach

In order to expand MEIP's assis-

tance to other cities in Asia and beyond, the programme expects:-

- Government and environmental agencies to exchange information and experiences.
- Industry Groups to share in Environmental Improvement Projects.
- NGO's collaborate on innovative approaches.
- Training institutions to assist on research and help in training needs.
- Donor agencies to ensure sustainability of initiatives.

Reflection

From the Standpoint of Karachi, the scenario appears gloomy and in chaos as far as the various channels of urban functioning are considered. However, the innovative attempts like the mega cities project, in fact, display the most needed promise that is required for any kind of improvement exercise.

Although the magnitude of the success of projects like MCP or MEIP does not necessarily correspond to the scale of the problems that the mega cities face, however these attempts can trigger the much needed catalytic action for a longing change. Besides it is obvious from the study of the dynamics of Mega-Cities that they are already on a path of self helping in which even modest drives can bring about a sizable change. □

(Prof. Kausar Bashir Ahmad,
is Coordinator Karachi
Mega-Cities Project and
President, Architecture and
Planning Education Forum)

DEVELOPMENT FINANCING

Financing the different tiers in a federal system

Arno Keller discusses how an equitable financial balance can be achieved between the different tiers of governance in a federal system

The municipalities form a part of the state's authority. They are termed the lowest level in the state and administrative structure, below the Federation and the Provinces. Each one of these levels is represented and legitimized by parliaments. When looking at the relations between local authorities to the higher levels, a distinction must be made between the relations of towns, municipalities and districts to the Federation on the one hand and to the respective province on the other.

In principle, the Federation is only the guarantor of the institutions of local government, but has - apart from a few exceptions - no direct relations to individual municipalities or districts. However, with its legislation the Federation influences the municipalities in many ways. These laws affect the local authorities in their capacity as links in the state structure and oblige them to implement the federal laws and have financial consequences.

The guarantee of local autonomy prohibits Federal and Provincial legislation from removing the rights of the local authorities to manage their own affairs or from restricting this right to such an extent that the substance of the autonomy is taken away from within.

The following sovereign rights largely belong to the responsibility of the municipality and the Federation or the province within the

limits of higher laws cannot infringe them:

Personnel Sovereignty: This grants the municipalities the right to select, engage, promote and dismiss staff.

Organizational Sovereignty: This encompasses the right for the municipalities to organise the



Financial justice holds the key to progress and prosperity

administration themselves.

Planning Sovereignty: This grants the municipalities the power to organize and shape municipality territory under their own responsibility by drawing up urban development plans (land use and building plans).

Legislative Sovereignty: This entails the right to pass municipal bylaws.

Financial Sovereignty: This entitles the municipalities to be responsible for managing their income and expenditure.

Tax Sovereignty: This grants the municipalities the right to raise

taxes (provided that this right has not been revoked by a higher law).

In a federal state system, it is evident that there is a need of self-government of all tiers, which means that the self-government of municipalities and councils has to be guaranteed by the Basic Law. Since local self-government could hardly exist without some degree of financial autonomy, this Basic Law has to include the local governments in its financial provisions. The Basic Law has to ensure that the local governments have adequate resources.

If a real democracy is to be built up from the grassroots level, political power evolves from the local level to the provinces and from there to the federal government. If we agree to this, the provinces have the primary responsibility for their local governments. As a result there should be no direct financial relationship between the federal government and the local governments.

If we agree to this general and basic idea, the Basic Law has to provide a detailed outline of fiscal responsibilities, respective tax sources, tax sharing among government levels, tax collection and administration, budgeting procedures, fiscal reporting and credit limits.

In general terms, such a section of the Basic Law provides for a distribution of financial resources, and therefore of responsibilities, between the national government



and the provinces, among the provinces, between provinces and local governments, and among local governments, what we can call fiscal equalization.

Fiscal equalization can be achieved by allocating certain taxes to each level of government; by sharing the most important taxes; and through federal grants, state grants and assessments of municipalities for the fiscal support of the countries.

Own separate tax resources would guarantee the most autonomy to the different levels; however this system would hardly assign taxes to different levels in such a manner that each has adequate revenues. It practically also eliminates the possibilities of economic regulating or planning and will cause local governments severe stress in a period of economic downturn.

An alternative model of financing is a shared system of taxation, according to which, each level has a claim on a certain proportion of the individual taxes collected. The

tax yield can be distributed in a variety of ways, for example, on the basis of contribution made by the various units of government, or on a principle of redistribution designed to overcome differences in local tax potential. In the first system, the lower level raises the taxes and transfers a proportion to the next higher level. In the second system of – what I would call – “centralized tax administration” the central government raises the taxes and distributes them to the lower level by some formula, for example based on population. This system allows for a uniform, efficient and productive tax policy, but it tends to reduce the autonomy of the local level.

Most modern tax systems are mixtures of these two basic models. Certain taxes are reserved for each level; other taxes are shared among the national, provincial and local levels according to proportions that are set by law; and still other taxes are shared through general-purpose or special purpose grants. This system of vertical relationship is designed to distrib-

ute revenue among the three basic levels of administration according to their respective public service responsibilities. Thus, local level is supposed to be placed in a position to meet its local government obligations from the revenues received from its own separately assigned taxes and from its set proportion of important common taxes and to carry out delegated and obligatory functions with general-purpose and special grants received from the provincial governments.

Fiscal equalization is not only to be seen as a means of sharing public service burdens but also of providing citizens everywhere with an equal level of public facilities and services, in spite of a federal structure and decentralized administration. □

(Arno Keller is Resident Representative of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation in Pakistan)

World Water Problem

1. On average, there is sufficient water worldwide, but it is not available where it is needed. In Bangladesh, for example, there is a surplus, whereas in the Sahel there is a shortage.
2. The sharp growth in population and production is leading to a rapid increase in water consumption.
3. The use of water is inefficient, especially in agriculture, where irrigation in particular is responsible for a great deal of wastage.
4. Water is contaminated by agriculture (pesticides) and industry, making it unsuitable for other applications.

The following secondary problems arise: The growing population means that more food is required. This in turn demands greater food production, and therefore more irrigation. People also want to grow food in areas where irrigation is not needed, especially in regions where there are now rainforests. This puts important natural habitats at risk. Due to the lack of water in certain regions, large-scale migrations may eventually occur. □

Courtesy: Environmental News from the Netherlands, Issue # 4, November 1999



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Towards sustainable living: Some random thoughts

Where are our living habits taking us? Navaid Husain raises some important concerns related to the issue of sustainable development in our region of the world.

People should pay particular attention to Pakistan's size, geography and population. We are a nation of 140 million people and growing at unsustainable speed. We will double in population in 30 years from now i.e. turn into a country of 280 million! This will place impossible environmental hazards on an already suffering country. Aside from this, the country will have to double in terms of the economy just to stay at the stage where we are.

If we consider ourselves in comparison to a few countries we will realise how our population has increased. Look at Japan. In 1843, its population was 30 million, whereas ours was 31.5 million in 1947. Japan increased to 122 million in 150 years and the population of Japan is stable. It increased by four fold in a century and half, whilst we increased four and a half times in just over 53 years.

Iran is twice Pakistan's size and has a population of sixty six million. In spite of its isolation it spends eleven per cent of its budget on education. Prior to marriage, all couples are invited to attend classes, where on the black board\

various family planning techniques are explained. In Pakistan anyone can get married without informing the authorities.

Consider Libya, which is twice Pakistan's size, yet has a population of just six million inhabitants. It also has the world's largest civil works project, which is a water canal that commences in the middle of the country and pumps out subterranean water. This is used to create a green belt of vegetation a thousand miles in length and also carries water to Tripoli.

Pakistan is as big as a single state of USA and will have a population equal to the entire USA in 30 years time!

Consider Saudi Arabia, which is oil rich and four times Pakistan's size. It just has a population of 15 million. Italy, like most European countries is facing a negative population growth. Russia which has 11 time zones, meaning the sun never sets there, has 150 million inhabitants. It has unimaginable natural resources.

Pakistan is as big as a single state of USA and will have a population equal to the entire USA in 30 years time! Indonesia has a declining population growth. Malaysia has a foreign exchange reserve of \$31



Educate a child: Build a nation



billion with a population of just 22.5 million.

We spend 2.1% on educating more than 100 million illiterate people in Pakistan. How to increase this figure in order to make our population more competent, productive and useful. By squeezing our budget and spending 10% on education.

Cities can be centers of culture – London – Paris – Madrid or center of decay like Karachi – Bombay – Calcutta, where some things move forward others backward – poverty knows no borders – People are equally depressed in India, BD or Pakistan and here in Pakistan there is a problem facing women. They can not freely go out and seek opportunities.

Cities of death are referred to as those which have factories that emit lead, cadmium, arsenic, chlorinated hydrocarbons and high levels of carbon dioxide. These result in reduced immunity, ulcers, bronchial diseases, carnal infections, congenital birth defects, lung cancer and leukemia. The result is an average decline of five years. How many of these factories do we have across this land?

Financial clout of cities will build up funds for housing, infrastructure development etc. How do we get it from people who do not pay their property taxes or bills? Poverty is the cannon fodder of regional wars. If all of South Asia agrees to cut down on armaments and spend more on education and development we can transform this part of the world. Some large issues are looking at all of us in the face.

Just as a point-Kargil cost Pakistan \$350 million and the operation cost India \$800 million and it increased its military budget by 150 billion rupees approximately what our budget is – what did we gain by this adventure?

The ice on mountain tops is slowly melting as a result of global warming and the entire sub soil water level of South Asia is declining - in Bangladesh a large part of underground water is arsenic contaminated. The melt in ice caps is a global phenomena and will dry up ice on the mountains, with catastrophic consequences for downstream areas. There is need now to experiment with drip irrigation.

There is an incredible amount of information on well governed cities and good housing but it

needs a literate population which we have little of. Corrupt cities arise from public indifference to issues and amongst other things refusal to pay bills for utilities and property taxes.

Well developed cheap housing must be cheerful, covered with greenery as it cuts down ambient temperature and offsets carbon dioxide. Sick buildings generate sick people. Rooms become too hot in the summer, damp bathroom walls, dimly lit walkways are a tempting target for muggers. These houses breed residents with respiratory problems.

Meaning sick houses breed sick people. How do we get people to live in decent houses? In a village in Sacramento, USA, called Davis people have the most advanced recycling system and live without AC – the village is covered with “urban permaculture”.

Some 20,000 trees and shrubs with a self imposed limit of 50,000 inhabitants make it an ideal place to live in and the same can be achieved here but we need a literate population that will look after its housing, sort out its garbage dump and look after its greenery.

In Indonesia and Malaysia there are no steel grills, many houses have gardens and shrubs overlooking the streets. Urban temperature there and in Singapore has been contained with the use of heavy trees as greenery. On the other hand, where are we heading? □

(Navaid Husain is a Professional Architect and Member, Managing Committee, Shehri)

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PRESS

7,000 hectares of mangroves affected by oil spills

DAWN, May 17, 2000

Speakers at a workshop on Tuesday stressed that the organisations report immediately when an accident or oil spill had occurred in their premises.

They said the oil spills had affected between 7,000 and 8,000 hectares of marsh covered with mangroves, and the plantations done a couple of years back were seriously affected and the oil could still be found at various places in the marshy areas.

Devolution of Power: Provincial Autonomy not to be affected: CE

DAWN, May 30, 2000

The Chief Executive Gen Pervez Musharraf said here on Monday that, contrary to speculation by some quarters, the devolution of power plan in no way impinged upon provincial autonomy to which the government was fully committed.

Presiding over the first meeting of the governors' committee on devolution of power and responsibility, he directed the governors to constitute provincial task forces on devolution of power, to be headed by them, and to include provincial ministers, respective chief secretaries and some other members.

Rot taking hold of DHA

THE STAR June 2, 2000

The Defence Housing Authority has brushed aside the concerns of Seaview Township residents and has accelerated the pace of constructing concrete structures on amenity plots reserved for parks and recreational facilities of the residents of the area.

Like the big city landlords, construction work is now going on even during the night much to the annoyance and disturbance of the residents.

The Seaview residents said while the present regime was trying to enforce the rule of law, check corruption and mismanagement of the previous regimes why cannot a subordinate office of DHA be stopped from carrying out illegal actions.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

SHEHRI invites the residents of the city to share with us, their concerns, on issues which are adversely affecting their neighbourhood's environment. Please write to us, preferably with a supporting photograph, so that efforts are made and solutions sought - Ed.

Concerns of DHA Residents

The Defence Housing Authority has brushed aside the concerns of Seaview Township residents and has accelerated the pace of constructing concrete structures on amenity plots reserved for parks and recreational facilities of the residents of the area.

Like the big city builders, construction work is now going on even during the night much to the annoyance and disturbance of the residents.

Seaview residents said that already six large plots have been encroached upon closing down six entry and exit roads towards 34th Street, at the back of the apartment blocks. These illegal constructions are:

(1) DHA Junior Model School Seaview, disturbing Blocks 23 and 24 (2) DHA Junior Model School Beachview, near Blocks 51, 52, 57-A, 58, 59 and (3) DHA Junior Model School Darakshan at Block 76, 77, 78 and 79.

The fourth building is DHA Junior Model School /Sea Breeze, (5) DHA Montessori - I, Darakshan cramped between apartments 47, 48, 55 and 56. The sixth is DHA Montessori - II between blocks 41, 42, 49 and 50.

The residents also claimed that the lease of the Saeed Mir Tennis Coaching Centre has been cancelled and the land has been handed over to a private party which is aggressively constructing a private club. The construction work on the club has damaged the underground electricity cable to Blocks 59 and 60, 18 homes in both the Blocks went without electricity for 72 hours.

The Seaview residents have condemned the Defence Housing Authority officials for commu-

nications with a radius of 110 acres of Seaview Apartments.

The residents pointed out that under the Pakistan Defence Officers Housing Authority Order, 1980 (PO VII of 1980), DHA is

prohibited to run, manage or develop schools.

The Seaview residents said while the present regime was trying to enforce the rule of law, check corruption and mismanagement of the previous regimes why cannot a subordinate office of DHA be stopped from carrying out illegal actions. □

Courtesy: The STAR



JUNIOR SHEHRI

Our Earth

The thin layer of air

We make a dangerous mistake if we think that the air around us is limitless. The layer of air around the earth is only about 15 km (10 miles) thick. Of this, only the first 5 to 6 km (3 to 4 miles) contains enough oxygen to be of use to human beings.

Life Hangs By a Hair!

The thickness of usable air equals the thickness of a human hair on a 45cm (18 inch) globe.

The layer of air into which we dump so much of our waste is only a few kilometers (miles) thick. If we continue to pollute it, this thin layer of air will soon be filled. It is already so polluted that our lives are at stake, and the lives of countless living things.

– Contributed by Kiran Bashir Ahmad, Member Shehri



Through the Mind's Eye

I dream of tomorrow with open eyes.
The lids won't shut. Oh! How time flies!
Civilizations flash upon my eye
As here on my bed I lie,
I see the world as once it was
Draped in darkness and then with cause
A ray of light pierced the shadow of the night
And startled the world with its force and might.
It spread with a slow though steady speed
To which the Powers paid much lead.
They did succeed in the end
And here in the road comes another bend
I see armies clashing by night and day
And that only to clear the way
For evil to triumph while good sits back
With a weak will and body slack
No! yet there are people who will
For reasons of their own mercilessly kill
Their own brother and say they are right
So add their bit to extinguish the light
But this is the light which has come to stay
It will burn on by night or day
The flame will flicker and cause some doubt
But the fuel will never ever run out
I have seen the past in my mind's eye
On a white cloud in the open sky
Which is sheltering yet the light of the dawn
Till the apex of the uncertain morn
I have dreamed, seen and now I know
Because I am a poet and so
Am in accord with the Rythm of life
Which is flowing ceaselessly and rife
In the Universe, so you will see
The light burn steadily through people
who Believe

– Kiran Bashir Ahmad



ASK SHEHRI

Most residents when faced with any civic problem do not know which person or organization to contact in order to solve their problem. In this column we invite the readers to share their worries with us and seek our help, which is always forthcoming - Ed.

Q. What modes of citizen participation have been identified by the government in the recently announced 'District Government' plan?

Sidra Shamsie, KDA Scheme # 1, Karachi

A. Citizen Community Boards will be formed at the union council levels, while the system of public hearings is also proposed to be introduced.

Q. Where is the office of the District Monitoring Team, District East?

Irtiza Khan, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi

A. DC East Office, Near KDA Civic Centre, University Road, Karachi. Tel: 4930591

Q. How much of Karachi comes under KMC jurisdiction?

Khalid Mahfooz, F.B.Area, Karachi

A. Out of a total area of 3527 sq. km. KMC has jurisdiction over 830 sq. km.

Shehri needs volunteers

Any person who wishes to help out in Shehri's ongoing and planned projects (cash / kind) should visit the Shehri Office for further information or contact the Shehri Secretariat through phone, fax or e-mail)

JOIN SHEHRI TO CREATE A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

If you wish to join shehri please send this card to

SHEHRI Citizens for a Better Environment
208-G, Block 2, P.E.C.H.S.
Karachi-75400, Pakistan
Tel / Fax : 453-0646

With a cross cheque of Rs. 300/- (Annual Membership Fee) in the name of Shehri-CBE with passport size photograph

Name _____

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

Address _____

Occupation _____

SHEHRI MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2000! Join Shehri and do your bit as a good citizen to make this city a clean, healthy and environmentally friendly place to live in!

INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT

Solid Waste Management Sector of Karachi A Case Study

Shehri-CBE assesses the solid waste management sector of Karachi to evaluate the causes of institutional decay and offers recommendations for change

Although most of the activities and plans adopted by the relevant agencies have been characterized by an intent to focus on short term and ad-hoc natured initiatives, some efforts have been made in the recent past to undertake long term projects. These efforts, mostly un-coordinated, have nevertheless exhibited a desire on the part of the agencies to reform their policy making and planning mechanisms. How successful have such efforts been and what has been gained or lost in the process?

This study assesses the nature, capacity and requirements of the relevant government departments to handle the solid waste management system of the city in the light of the experiences gained during the planning and implementation of three separate projects.

To begin with, the Garbage Train Project was an effort to improve the garbage collection and disposal capabilities of the agencies, making optimum use of the existing technical and manpower resources, while at the same time augmenting certain aspects of the whole operation on modern, state-of-the-art waste management guidelines, technology, and procedures. The project involved a huge shift in governments policy, management and implementation methodologies.

The second project considered in this study is an initiative, launched to privatize the solid waste collection and

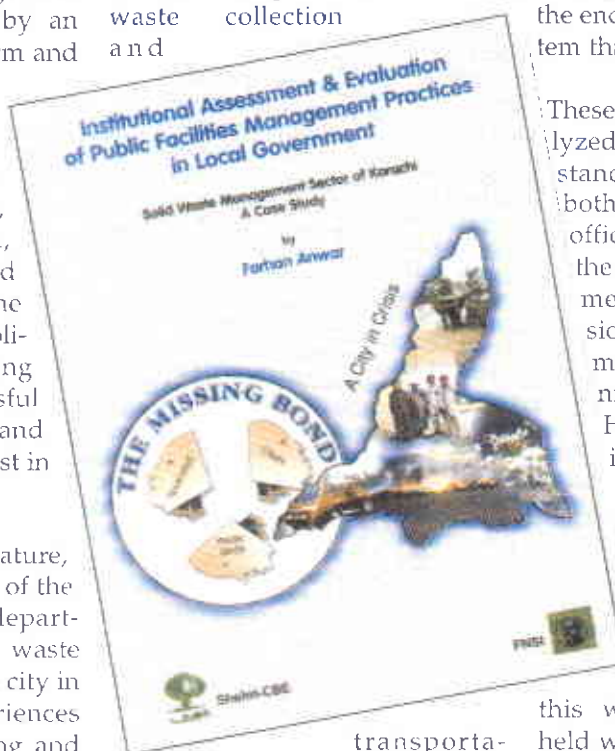
commendable and much needed initiative, and provides the focus of the third analytical study. In the end is discussed briefly, a system that works!

These projects have been analyzed in the study to understand the processes at work both within and outside the official system, which shape the contours of their development dynamics. How decisions are taken and policies made? What are the planning mechanisms at work? How do the various actors interact with each other? Is the need for meaningful public participation ever given priority consideration? These are some of the questions, which have been addressed.

During the course of this work, consultations were held with the relevant stakeholder groups including government officials, private entrepreneurs and the general public.

Since the main objective is the improvement in the working efficiency of the system, a computer aided expert management model for urban solid waste management has been prepared for the benefit of planners and managers. This is a pioneering effort of its kind in Pakistan.

Farhan Anwar, Executive Member, Shehri-CBE, conducted this research project. □



transportation systems of certain sectors of Karachi city, with the aim of reducing the load from the ailing government sector, improve efficiency in operations and reduce costs. Also envisioned was the incorporation of an enhanced level of public participation, transparency and accountability of services.

In order to reduce the instances and need for dumping of garbage within populated sections of the city, a number of sites along the periphery of the city were identified to be developed as sanitary landfill disposal sites. This was a

A fun day at the Shehri Park

Shehri has been receiving good response from various sectors of the civil society in efforts to rehabilitate and develop the park it adopted some time back.

Recently, students of Lyceum School, Karachi pitched in and took part in the plantation drive. Much more of such high spirited volunteer efforts and contributions in cash and kind are needed for a successful completion of the project. So, come join us and do your bit.

For further information on how you can contribute, contact the Shehri Secretariat. □

