



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

September - December, 2000 Vol. 10/No. 3

INSIDE

- Kirthar Campaign
- Healthy City
- Shehri Youth
- School Project
- IUCN Congress
- Climate Change

SOS KIRTHAR!! IS ANYBODY LISTENING?

*As national and international protest mounts against the controversial oil/gas exploration project in the Kirthar National Park, a **SHEHRI SPECIAL REPORT** assesses the various landmarks set in the campaign to save the park and surveys the road ahead.*

In 1997, the Directorate General of Petroleum Concessions, an affiliated body of the Federal Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources, Government of Pakistan, granted a concession to the Premier Oil Group, to explore for oil/gas, in the Dumbar Block. Premir Oil, later merged with Shell Oil, to form the Premier-Shell Pakistan Group.

90% of the Dumbar Block comprises of the Kirthar National Park. Kirthar National Park (KNP) is the largest national park of the country. It was designated as a national park in 1974 by the Sindh Wildlife Department. It was the first of Pakistan's park to be included in the UN's listing of national parks in 1975. In addition, Kirthar qualifies for the strict criteria fixed by the World Conservation Union for a Category II Protected Area.



KNP is situated at a distance of about 80 kms north of Karachi. Apart from its rich biodiversity status, the area houses archaeological remains dating back to 3500 years B.C., and also the largest of world's historic forts-Rannikot. In addition, the park area serves as the watershed of four important waterways

CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON KIRTHAR

**World Wide Fund for
Nature-Pakistan**

**Sustainable Development
Policy Institute (SDPI)**

SUNGI Development

**Shehri-Citizens for a
Better Environment**

Shirkat Gah

CREED Alliance

PILER

**Karachi Administration
Women Welfare Society
(KAWWS)**

Aurat Foundation

**Urban Resource Centre
(URC)**

Idara-e-Amn-o-Insaf (IDARA)

**South Asia Partnership -
Pakistan**

Sindh Graduates Association



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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

The True Meaning of Local Governance

Local government is probably the most open, transparent and participatory of all tiers within the national governance structure. In effective and functioning democracies, it is therefore accorded the importance and significance it deserves. The people served by their local governments are also suitably aware of the fact that most of their everyday concerns will be solved at the local level, and consequently interact and participate vigorously and enthusiastically at this level within the prescribed mechanisms of citizen involvement. The local government officials, conscious of the knowledgeable and informed nature of citizen involvement, and aware of their own power to bring about meaningful change, deliver upon their mandate, finding little room for unchecked inefficiency and mismanagement.

It is exactly this closeness of integration between the elected and the electorate, that makes local politics so vital for the common man, as compared to say national politics, where citizen involvement is usually at a bare minimal.

We have never been able to (either by design or by default) to nurture and strengthen a people friendly local governance structure. In the absence of properly functioning local governance systems, the citizen of

the state has failed to grasp the true essence of democracy which lies in local politics, not in national politics, has been disoriented as a result, and at times fails even to prioritize with sufficient clarity, the real issues which matter most in his or her life. It is therefore, not uncommon amongst us, that whenever a few people, whichever strata of society they may belong to, gather and converse, more time is given to discussing world politics, than to issues effecting the day to day lives of an ordinary Pakistani citizen!

It nothing else, even if the presently floated system of "Local Governance", is able to establish this pivotal link between the ordinary citizen and its local council, it would be a creditable achievement.

To do this, the system should ensure that most of the needs and demands of the people are addressed at their local council level and people friendly mechanisms for achieving this objective are set in place. The present plan is long on rhetoric and short on substance and it is felt that if the requisite political, financial and administrative powers are not vested in the local councils to achieve the desired objectives, then a unique opportunity of evolving a meaningful grass root democratic process in the country may forever be lost. □



feeding into Karachi and Hyderabad i.e., Hub, Baran, Mole and Malir rivers.

However, the main issue at stake is the legal status of the park.



More than 200 new plant species have already been found in the park during the preliminary stage of the baseline study

According to the Sindh Wildlife Protection Ordinance 1972, all kinds of mining and exploration activities are prohibited in the national parks of Sindh province. This law is further augmented by the Sindh Wildlife Amendment Act 1993 and a Sindh Government Notification, 1997. It is clear, that the awarding of this exploration license was an illegal act.

It is for this very reason, that when the Premier Group approached the Sindh Wildlife Department (SWD) for gaining access to the area, the SWD officials resisted this move and also approached The World Conservation Union (IUCN), Pakistan to seek expert guidance. The fact that the SWD later on became part and parcel of this unfortunate episode, is another story.

When SWD established contact with IUCN, the environmental groups entered the equation. IUCN Pakistan immediately formed a sub-committee on Kirthar within its Pakistan National Council Membership. This sub-committee then expanded to form the *Citizens Committee on Kirthar*, as more and more NGO's became part of the campaign, which were not members of IUCN Pakistan

and a need was felt to form a broader alliance. Initially, IUCN established contact with the oil companies and the government to register their concerns. After a lengthy process of dialogue, it was decided that the only activity that can be allowed is to conduct a 'Baseline Scientific Study', (BS), of the park to prepare an inventory of the park and assess its ecological status. This was because the last thorough scientific study of the park was done in 1974, on the basis of which, Kirthar was declared a national park. On the basis of the findings of the proposed BS, it was decided to develop a 'Management Plan', for the park.

Instead of a baseline study, the project proponents of the oil/gas exploration project had been insisting on starting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The citizen groups resisted this move. The reason was obvious. An EIA is always considered an integral part of the project, whose environmental impact it assesses. In this case the subject project was clearly an illegal act. So it stands to reason that its EIA would also be illegal. It was as simple as that. The government and oil companies insist that an EIA is also a 'non-intrusive' and scientific study and hence allowable. The citizen groups do not buy this argument.

On 21/22 of January 2000, a Public Consultative Workshop was held in Karachi, in which the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the baseline study were finalized. Melbourne Enterprises International (MEI), a commercial wing of the Melbourne University, Australia, who were selected to do the Baseline Study, made their presentation. The main commitments that were made in this workshop were that:

- No consideration to an EIA

would be given and only the results of the baseline study, after due deliberation by all the relevant stakeholders would form the basis of any future management plan of the park.

Since the BS was being funded by Premier - Shell Group, a number of checks and balances were also proposed by citizen groups, which were accepted by the government.

These included:

- Formation of a *Project Steering Committee (PSC)*, consisting of all relevant stakeholders. The PSC would be responsible for monitoring all aspects of the study, from approval of project personnel to the clearance and issuance of funds.
- A *Technical Advisory Group (TAG)* was to be formed to provide technical oversight and report to PSC.
- Public disclosure of the findings of the BS.

"According to the 1973 study, the list of plants, for example, was less than 200 species in the park. We've now got a list which is well in excess of 400 species probably around about 500 plant species within the park and the known flora of the Sindh province is around about 1,000 species. We don't believe that we have found all of the species in the park."

– Dr. Neal Enright, Team Leader, Kirthar Baseline Study, MEI, University of Melbourne, Australia.



"In Pakistan, Shell wants to exploit reserves of natural gas lying under the Kirthar National Park, 80 miles north of Karachi, which is home to many rare species and contains archeological sites from 3,500 BC.

Environmental laws ban any mineral exploration in the reserve, but in 1997 Shell and Premier Oil were jointly awarded a licence to explore a region that included the whole Kirthar area. Since then they have been lobbying to lift the law blocking such activities.

A Shell spokesman said the protests did not take account of "today's high standards of exploration and production". □

**— Jonathan Leake,
Environment Editor, Sunday
Times, United Kingdom.**

From then on, has continued an unfortunate trail of broken promises and commitments on the part of the project proponents. Let us just briefly go through this list:

- The PSC, which was supposed to start functioning from the very beginning of the project, was notified under tremendous pressure from the citizen groups in late September and met for the first time on 22nd September 2000. This, when the study was initiated nine months earlier in January. Even when it was formed, its composition was such that it

was immediately rejected by all the citizen groups.

- The TAG only met once, that too informally in the park and could not feed into the PSC, as there existed no PSC!
- No public disclosure of the study findings was made. After much pressure from the citizens, the preliminary findings were provided only to IUCN and WWF, who anyway do not represent the citizens.
- Another interesting point. The BS contract is a three-way contract. MEI are the executors, PSP the funders and the SWD act as representative of the Sindh Government, the authorizing authority. Initially when the contract was prepared, it was sent to the Sindh Law Ministry for approval. They had some reservations and sent it back to the SWD for comments. However, the project got underway and it was only after 70% of the data collection work was completed that SWD finally got to sign on the dotted line, sometimes in late August! Till then it was a two-way contract. Who was protecting the interests of the people during these 7 or 8 months, nobody knows.
- Now we come to the main point of contention. It was categorically stated by the SWD officials in the Karachi Workshop that no EIA would even be considered till the BS results were evaluated. However, within a month, in April, the EIA was initiated and continues till this day and is in fact, scheduled to be completed before the conclusion of the BS! How can one describe such actions.

However, even though the BS has been conducted under such constraints, it still presents a very positive picture of the KNP. Dr. Neal Enright, the leader of the Australian team is quoted as saying that 200 new species have been discovered in the KNP. In the first meeting of the PSC, Dr. Neal further said that they have found in Kirthar a plant species, never before documented anywhere in the world. And all this when the study has been conducted during a severe drought period and therefore does not adequately represent the true ecological status of the park.

To the Citizens Committee on Kirthar, two things have become very clear. First, of course is the gross illegality of the whole process. In spite of clearly worded and unambiguous legal barriers, the whole charade goes on. The relevant ordinance and amend-

"Interest of the present Sindh Governor and Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources in the project is not surprising for knowledgeable sources as they know that the minister has been the employee of Shell before his present portfolio and the Governor used to sit at the company's board of governors." □

**— Zulfiqar Shah
Progress Sans Nature,
News on Sunday**

ments are not being acknowledged or at most are being treated as minor irritants. They are being brushed aside only to be dealt with at an opportune time. Put under



pressure, the classic beggar bowl argument comes out. We are a cash strapped economy, need foreign

less dignified terms, it translates into electricity thefts and the activities of the *Kunda Mafia*. The tax

which has stood out is the systematic breaking of all the commitments made by the project proponents during the process of dialogue. Yet the citizens are being asked to accept their future commitments for ensuring the protection of the park's environment. How can that be? A dialogue is built on trust and cannot function in an atmosphere of mistrust.

Apart from prominent national NGO's, globally based citizen activist networks like Friends of Earth and Global Response have facilitated this campaign by writing letters of protest to the relevant government agencies and multinational corporations involved in this illegal project. And the campaign goes on! □

"Despite the attempts to present a new image with glossy brochures and friendly websites, Shell is still one of the world's most notorious polluters and human rights abusers. Following recent operations in a region of Peru, the river now occasionally runs black. Shell also recently faced a successful Greenpeace campaign to stop them sinking the decommissioned Brent Spar oil platform in the North Sea, rather than following the standard practice of dismantling and recycling the equipment on shore." □

***– Shell, Pakistan and Your University, Ben Moxham,
Editor Farrago, Melbourne University Newsletter.***

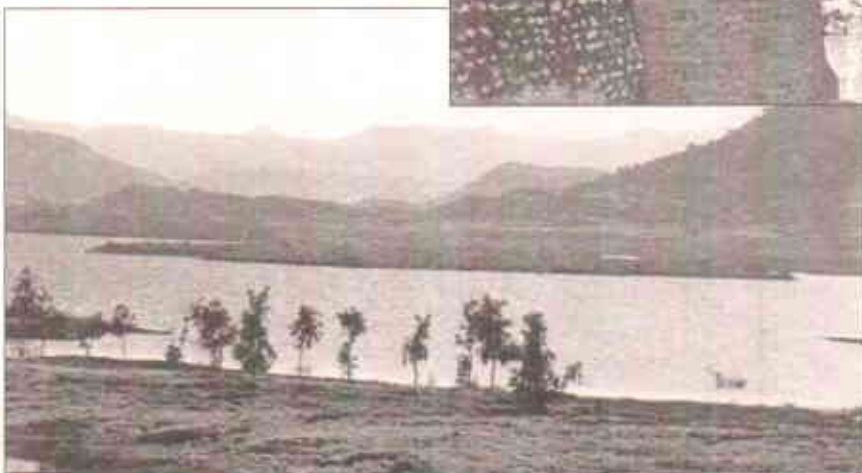
investment, the national development debate and the works.

It is above all a matter of governance. Had the national governance process been in shape, we would not be facing these apparently no option cases. An example might clarify this argument. In Karachi, these days, there is massive load shedding. Two hours announced load shedding, the rest comes as a bonus! The argument is that KESC does not have the money to buy furnace oil. Again, the citizens have to suffer, as there is no other option! But there are

payers subsidize for this mismanagement as the government cannot control the theft, and are given no options when it comes to finding solutions. Do the citizens always



Wildlife is not the only resource at stake:
Rannikot Fort (Top) and the Hub River
reservoir (Bottom)



always options. It is all a matter of governance. In Karachi, according to rough estimates, there are 50-60% transmission losses. Put in

have to pay for the mismanagement of our governments?

Another factor in this process

**For more information,
please log on to the
campaign website
www.savekirthar.org**



Kirthar Campaign gains International Support and Recognition



Global Response

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION AND EDUCATION NETWORK

'P.O.Box 7490

BOULDER, COLORADO, U.S.A., 80306-7490

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



#6/00 Stop Oil/Gas Development in Kirthar National Park / Pakistan

Requested Action:

Please send polite letters to the Pakistani government and Shell-Premier. Ask them to immediately halt the ongoing Shell-Premier Environmental Impact Assessment and cancel all plans for oil and gas exploration and development in Kirthar National Park because:

- Oil and gas development are clearly illegal within Kirthar National Park, according to provisions of the Sindh Wildlife Protection Ordinance 1972, the Sindh Wildlife Amendment Act 1993, and a Sindh Govt. Notification 1997.
- The unique biodiversity of Kirthar National Park merits continued scientific study and strict preservation.
- Affected communities within the park and civil society must participate fully in all discussions and decisions regarding the future of Kirthar National Park.

Write to:

Usman Aminuddin, Federal Minister
Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Resources
Government of Pakistan
Room # 305, Pak Secretariat,
A Block, Islamabad, Pakistan
Fax # Int'l code + 92-51-9206416

Peter Cockroft, General Manager & CEO
Premier & Shell Pakistan B.V.
4th Floor, West Half, Jang Building
Fazal-e-Haq Road, Blue Area
Islamabad, Pakistan
Fax # Int'l code + 92-51-821785

This Global Response Action was issued at the request of and with information provided by the *Citizens Committee on Kirthar and Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment*. Special thanks to George Blevins for his drawings. For more information, please see these websites:

www.savekirthar.org
www.oilwatch.org.ec/teganatai/
www.shell.com/royal-en/



GLOBAL RESPONSE is an international letter-writing network for environmental activism. At the request of indigenous, environmentalist, and human rights organizations around the world, **GLOBAL RESPONSE** develops Actions that describe specific, urgent threats to the environment. Each Action asks members to write personal letters to individuals in the corporations, governments and financial institutions that have the power and responsibility to prevent environmental destruction. **GLOBAL RESPONSE** also issues **Young Environmentalist's Actions** and **Eco-Club Actions** that educate and motivate primary and secondary school students to be active Earth stewards and global citizens. **Teachers Kits** are also available.

For more information, and to join Global Response, visit our website: www.globalresponse.org.

Phone: 303/444-9794 Email: action@globalresponse.org

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With your tax-deductible gift, we'll expand our international network and increase the effectiveness of your letters!



Please collect as many signatures as you can from friends
and family and send to the concerned officials



- Chief Executive of Pakistan
- Governor of Sindh

Let us not destroy the legacy of
our future generations!

Save the Kirthar National Park from
Illegal gas exploration and produc-
tion activities.



Website: www.savekirthar.org

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Send completed form to Shehri: CBE, 206-G/2, PECHS, Karachi-75400, Phone/Fax: 453-0646



SHEHRI ACTIVITIES

Public Presentation of the 'Healthy City Karachi Project (Baseline Research) Report'

(Saturday, September 30, 2000, Frere Hall, Karachi)

The Baseline Research Report on the 'Healthy City Karachi Project', was presented before representatives of various sectors of the civil society in Karachi. It was a project of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, York University, Toronto, Canada. Shehri-CBE, acted as the 'Host Organization' for the project.

Qazi Faez Isa, Chairperson, Shehri-CBE presented the welcome address. Mr. Isa said that this

are leaving enmass for countries like America and Canada. He said that there is minimal investment in human resource development in our country. One manifestation of this fact was that while countries much smaller and with lesser natural and human resources than us, came back with loads of medals from the recent Olympic games, our contingent came back empty handed!



Qazi Faez Isa
Chairperson,
Shehri-CBE



He was hopeful that the Healthy City Project could set in motion a process of positive change. Mr. Isa said that presently there is complete lack of co-ordination at all levels of governance in the country. Recently a building protected by the 'Heritage Act' was demolished by the Ministry of Defence. When questioned, they

for the research report, made a presentation of the work done. He said that when he started his work, much sarcasm was shown by the people he met. This reaction in a way signified the apathy which has developed in the people that nothing can change for the better and things could only get worse. Mr. Khan gave an introduction of the 'Healthy City' concept and the model of Health and Community Eco-System. His presentation on the 'State of the City' included issues related to governance and civil society, city economy, key services and infrastructure, environmental management and social conditions.

project, represented a new initiative from Shehri-CBE, since the city needs repair and improvement at a macro level, through comprehensive planning and implementation of city wide projects and initiatives. He said that it is upto the citizens of Karachi to provide the impetus. "We complain a lot but do not take an active part in solving our problems," said Mr. Isa. He added that there is a lot of despair and despondency in the society. Suicide rates are rising.

said that provincial laws do not apply to them!

He concluded by saying that there is a lot of symbolism behind holding the session in Frere Hall. A building, representative of Karachi's once proud past. He said that this magnificent structure was built in two years! A hundred years later, we cannot boast of the same efficiency levels.

Mr. Khan identified roads and public transportation, water and sanitation and solid waste management, as areas in need of urgent rehabilitation. On the issue of envi-



Farhan Anwar
Executive Member,
Shehri-CBE

Mr. Isa lamented the fact that people are so discouraged that they

With the help of charts and slides, **Muhammad Tariq Khan**, Principal Investigator



ronmental management, he laid stress on reviving cultural activities and building recreational infrastructure.

He also outlined the methodology adopted in conducting the research, based on the principles of 'Participatory Action Research' and involving interviews, focus group

evolutionary process and cannot be classified as a strictly result based management system. The concept seeks participation and involvement of all sectors of the society in the decision making, planning and implementation processes within a city. This, he said was the need of the hour in



Muhammad Tariq Khan
Principal Investigator
Healthy City Research
Report



discussions and use of the internet to access and gain input from various sectors of the civil society in Karachi. He thanked Shehri-CBE, on behalf of York University, for acting as the 'Host Organisation' for the project.

Farhan Anwar, Executive Member, Shehri-CBE and Local Resource Person for the research report, gave his impressions on the subject. Mr. Anwar said that the Healthy City concept envisions an

Karachi. He called upon all the residents of the city to stand up and be counted in this hour of need and do their bit for converting Karachi into a city of peace,

Healthy City Project in Karachi.

Later, prominent academics and Shehri members including Prof. Muhammad Nauman, Prof. Kausar Bashir, Farooq Daud and Shaukat Omari appreciated



learning, culture and prosperity. He thanked the York University team for their initiative in introducing this concept in Karachi and expressed Shehri's resolve to work for the implementation of the

Shehri's initiative and gave suggestions.

Qazi Faez Isa concluded the session with a vote of thanks. □

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT TALKS, NEW DELHI, INDIA

Navaid Husain of Shehri-CBE Participates

In November 2000, six hundred delegates from SAARC (South Asia) nations met to discuss Nuclear Disarmament in New Delhi. Similar discussions are taking place throughout the region to forego militarisation and armaments and instead to pour money into our badly needed development processes. Over population, a severe lack of education, housing and employment are amongst the things that need to be addressed as the region is falling behind the rest of the world as we are involved in disputes.

The Pakistan delegation of 50 people was led by senior journalist, M.B. Naqvi. The list of partici-

pants, among others, included, Karamat Ali, M. Kutty, Dr. Haroon Ahmad, Tahir Ahmad Khan, Navaid Husain, Latif Kapadia, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Nasir Akhtar, Brig (Retd.) Rao Abid Hamid. Various bodies from individual countries are building up support internally and are planning across the border visits by groups of people to explore the elements of commonality.

Incidentally, during the Kargil crisis, India and Pakistan exchanged threats to use all the weapons they have (meaning regular and nuclear) on no less than nineteen occasions! □



Shehri's comments on "Regulations 2000" draft

As the government presents and opens for public debate, the first draft of the Building By Laws 2000, *Shehri* contributes to this process by submitting detailed comments and participates actively in the public hearings being held to finalize the draft.

General Comments

1. Language of the document must be legally correct: the Objections Review Committee must have a knowledgeable and competent lawyer at the re-formulation stage to advise on:
 - application of words and terms (e.g., "shall", "should", "will", "must", "preferable", etc.)
 - compatibility of the proposed Regulations with SBCO 1979 and other legislation (including KDA Order 1957, lease/land-grant conditions, zonal plans, etc.)
 - elimination of misuse / misinterpretation of the language
2. There is no properly established, documented, and well-publicized procedure of internal working in KBCA, e.g.,
 - delegation of powers and duties to CCOB, COBs, DCBs, ACBs, etc.
 - step-wise procedure for approval, etc., of plans.

This (and the following two measures) need to be set up in order to make the Regulations meaningful and effective.

3. A special court, covering all five districts, must be established for the trial of criminal offenses under SBCO 1979 (similar to KESC court, KMC court, etc.)
4. The role and functioning of special KDA/KBCA magistrates and KDA/KBCA police must be strengthened.
5. All acronyms/abbreviations must be stated in the "Definitions" chapter (e.g., "Floor Area Ratio" (FAR) or in a separate listing.
6. Before Town-planning or Building Regulations are formulated, should there not be a master-plan or a structured plan for the entire city? Do we not need an over-view of what is going on? Density (commercialization, increase of plot-ratios/FAR, etc.) of localities cannot be done in isolation without understanding its impact on the city, and its amenities and infra-

structure. An urban renewal exercise is a prerequisite to the increase in densification.

7. Is it not necessary to make provision for handicapped access in buildings (e.g. ramps, lifts, special toilets, fire-escape, water drinking fountains, etc.)?
8. Use sequential page numbering "1,2,3,4..."
9. All units must be SI (metric), with imperial units in parenthesis.
10. How can these Regulations mandate various positive actions by the "Concerned Authorities"? □

If anyone is interested in accessing the detailed comments of Shehri on "Regulations 2000", or the full draft of the Shehri petition in the KESC Tariff case, please contact the Shehri Secretariat

Shehri becomes Intervenor in the Petition for increase in KESC Tariff to be heard by NEPRA

Shehri's request to become intervenor in the KESC tariff case has been accepted by NEPRA. Apart from assisting in arriving at a just and informed decision on this issue, Shehri also requests that the following issues which are directly related to cost of electricity and the improvement of safety and performance standards of electrical systems in Pakistan, be also reviewed:

1. Upgrading of the "Electricity Act 1910" and "Electricity Rules 1937", two antiquated and deficient pieces of legislation and rules.
2. Enforcement of prescribed utility service characteristics, such as voltage, stability, load-shedding, etc.
3. Performance and corruption of the Electrical Inspectors, who do not ensure the safety of electrical installations.
4. The hazardous nature of electrical systems (both utility and consumer) in Pakistan.
5. The NEPRA award of "System Development Charges" to KESC
6. Promotion of the benefits of "wheeling" electricity between private producers (who are more efficient than WAPDA/KESC) and consumers. □



Shehri assists in the establishment of the 'Free Home School', in Bilawal Jokhio Goth, Karachi.

Bilawal Jokhio Goth is situated near Safora Goth, adjacent Race Course Ground on University Road. It is a locality bereft of even the basic necessities of life.

Poverty and unemployment are the major social problems faced by the residents. Basic health and education facilities are not provided and children at a very young age are forced into employment. Most of the young girls are employed as hired helps in nearby homes while boys either graze goats, run small shops, act as vendors or are employed in hard labour.

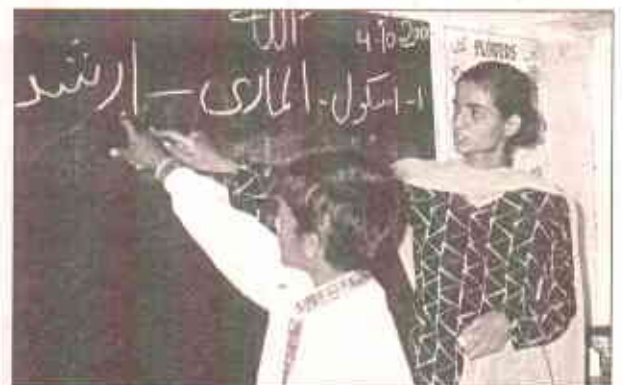
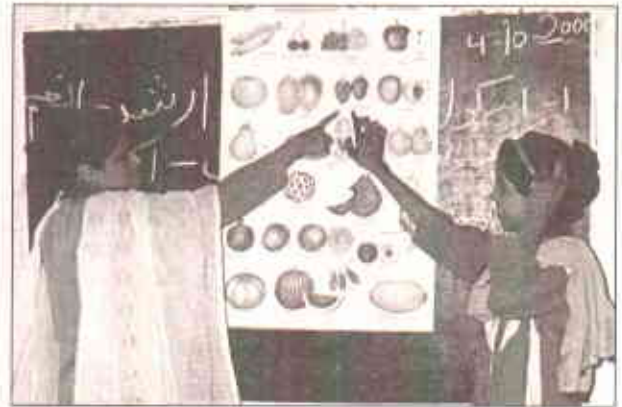
Hopes of improvement in the living conditions were raised with the formation of a Community Based Organization (CBO), *Association of Male Social Development (AMSD)*. AMSD sought assistance in promoting education on a self help basis from Shehri-CBE. Ms. Mansoor, Administrator, *Shehri-CBE*, paid a visit to the locality and expressed her resolve and commitment to assist AMSD in achieving their noble objectives.

On October 2, 2000, through a joint collabora-

tive effort, between AMSD and Shehri-CBE, 'A Free Home School' for children (age group 5-12) was established in the premises of the welfare centre of AMSD. 40 children are now enrolled in this school. Children are taught about character building, moral and religious aspects of education and the importance of cleanliness. In addition, language and mathematics classes are also held. Books, stationery, pencils etc. are provided free of cost to all the children.

Despite severe financial constraints, AMSD has managed till now to run the school and hold classes on a regular basis. Costs include stationery, water and electricity bills etc. It is also felt that proper furniture, including chairs, desks are required. Shehri-CBE is assisting AMSD in the generation of much needed funds.

However, funds are required on an ongoing and sustained basis to support this noble campaign in the long run and even open new branches. Shehri-CBE asks all its members and other local philanthropists to come forward and extend their



help and co-operation for the 'Free Home School' project. □

(Please contact Ms. Mansoor, Administrator, Shehri-CBE for further information.)



"Shehri Youth" Members participate in the "Dawn in Education" Program (October 4, 2000)

SHEHRI-CBE has started a process of organizing extra curricular activities involving the youth, mostly school going children, in order to broaden their outlook on social, environmental and development issues and concerns, so that they are better equipped to strive towards establishing an enlightened and progressive civil society in the country.



The *Dawn in Education Project* is an innovative program that aims at encouraging the children to read newspapers so that they can learn more about the world around them.

concerning governance, and the present day problems faced by the citizens.

A visit was arranged by SHEHRI for the pupils of *Karachi Cambridge School, (Senior Section)* to the Dawn office at Haroon House on Wednesday, October 4, 2000, to see how a newspaper is produced. The session was conducted by **Ms. Farishta Dinshaw**, Project

The Dawn Group of Newspapers at Haroon House, is run very efficiently in an environment friendly manner. Haroon House is free from smoke pollution. The paper utilized by the Dawn Group for printing, is imported from Denmark, Canada, Sri Lanka, where sustainable forestation activities are adopted. Heidelberg Harris printing machines are utilized in Dawn printing, which turn out 2000 copies per minute.



Dawn goes into print by 2.am, and the process is completed by 4.am. The papers are delivered to the hawkers by 6.am. Ample printing paper is in store, to avoid inconveniences, like ban on paper by governments, if any.

Coordinator, Dawn In Education, who provided detailed information on the newspaper printing process and its importance in the educational field, general knowledge and day to day activities of school going children.

During the visit of the Shehri team, it was time to print the evening issue of STAR, and the team was shown the entire printing process of the issue from step one to the last. After the education session, refreshments were served. One copy each of the STAR and a writing pad were distributed among the children. □

Later, the session was carried on by the Chief Editor, STAR, **Mr. Kamal Majeedullah**. The children asked questions regarding the newspaper and other matters



CONSERVATION

Brainstorming for a better environment

Meher Marker Noshirwani, provides a unique insight into the modern trends and politics taking shape in the global conservation debate, as she attends the 2nd World Conservation Congress of IUCN in Amman, Jordan, (Oct. 4-11, 2000)

As we started our final descent into Amman, I could see the wide expanse of desert, and it reminded me of Quetta. I was going to attend IUCN's 2nd World Conservation Congress in Jordan, and I looked forward to the experience. The drive from the airport to the hotel Abjar was interesting. We passed olive groves, and grape vineyards, and the houses were made of stone, which gave it a strange blend of east and west.

Amman is situated on several hills so its like being on a roller-coaster all the time and it has a very good road network. The hotel Abjar was small, comfortable and clean, and my room overlooked a beautiful blue mosque. I was glad to be there and looked forward to the Congress and the holiday afterwards.

After settling, in I met the rest of the group, and the IUCN staff who told us that we had to be at the Sports City later that evening for a briefing and orientation. This was my first Congress, and although I had been working on environmental issues for many years, this was the first time I would see it come together at a global level. So I was optimistic and full of hope. Little did I know that certain incidents were taking place in the tragic city of Jerusalem, which would have a profound impact on me later on.

The Earth Forum

Where are we going- Prospects for earth in the new millennium.

The unofficial opening of the Congress began with the *Earth Forum*, a daylong session on current and future environmental debates. I started putting names to faces, Martin Holgate, Maurice Strong, the Director General of IUCN, Maritta von Biberstein Koch-Weser, the President, Yolanda Kakabadse, and other people I had heard of in the course of the years I have worked in this field.

It was also good to meet old friends, Mark Halle who had introduced me to the phrase women's interaction with natural resources' many years ago in 1985, and Zakir of the IUCN Bangkok office.

Queen Noor opened the session, and the topics for discussion focussed on sustainable development, civil society, environmental conflicts, and Rio +10. I learnt a lot in terms of conceptual clarity of current debates, and issues, but I was also surprised to hear the President of IUCN say she did not understand what happened in Seattle, and that environment activist groups disrupted proceedings at Seattle, and damaged the cause.

The Opening Ceremony took place at the *Roman Theatre* later that evening. Queen Noor of Jordan is an extremely elegant person, and eloquent speaker. We sat perched up in the 2000-year-old amphitheater listening to the Royal Guard band playing a mixture of western and Arabic music, and it was a very pleasant evening.

The Interactive Sessions

Two days of the Congress were dedicated to interactive sessions, basically workshops on various issues, which were supposed to provide time for interaction and discussion from the participants. I attended 4 sessions. These were; Environment and Security: A new strategic role for IUCN, Environmental Health of Island, Coastal and Marine ecosystems, Local Solutions that promote Social Equity and Cultural Diversity, (gender within natural resource management) and Agriculture, Biodiversity, Economy and Society.

The standard of each workshop was very good. The speakers provided a lot of information, the presentations were interesting, and I learnt what was happening in other countries from the case studies. Environment and security is an emerging issue, and the case study of the NWFP was interesting, but too short. I was disappointed and expected a more substantial presentation, but on the whole it was a good workshop.

The whole issue of environment and security is a challenge, as one participant said security means freedom from fear.

The workshops tried to link their outcomes into IUCN's agenda for the future, and if this is indeed possible, then I think they will provide good direction. However, I felt there were too many speakers and not enough time for interaction and discussions. I also felt that



there was very little representation from South Asia among the speakers. Apart from Vandana Shiva, who gave an excellent presentation on agriculture, and Rani who chaired the gender workshop, there were no speakers from South Asia in the sessions I attended.

This gap translates itself in two ways, on one hand it raises the question of how are speakers chosen, and which kind of case studies are included. Isn't anything happening in South Asia that deserves to be represented at such forums? And although I found it interesting to learn about Australia's northern prawn fishery, I could not help thinking of the large trawlers sitting in our waters, the tons of pollution killing our mangroves, and the thousands of fishermen and women whose livelihood is threatened by overfishing.

The issues of the South Asian region are much more basic, and they must be emphasized at international forums, because it is here that the seeds of advocacy can be planted. In IUCN's case the resolutions form an integral part of direction and commitment of the Union, and the language of the resolutions comes from on-the-ground realities. If South Asia has a weak voice it will not be heard.

Elections

I had heard a lot about the IUCN elections, and the important part they played in the Congress. The Regional Councilor from West Asia, Khawar Mumtaz had completed her two terms, and Ali Akbar was standing from Pakistan. A lot of lobbying and campaigning had been going on even before the Congress, and while we were there, I saw the politics behind the scenes.

The election itself is a fairly simple process, and the forms were easy

to follow. Since there were only three candidates from West Asia, one each from Pakistan, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia, all three were elected. It was the South and East Asia that was the most interesting and the most disappointing.

Out of six candidates, two were from India and one from Bangladesh, which split the vote three ways, and none of them were elected. Instead, China, Japan, and

Philippines won the elections. I felt this was bad strategy, short sightedness, with no sense of unity. If only the South Asian bloc had selected one or even two candidates, someone would have been elected. This way Bangladesh voted for their candidate, and India split its vote into two.

So once again South Asia was left out in the cold. I suppose we still have to learn to put aside our internal rivalries and ego's for the greater cause.

Among the Commission Chairs, there was one Indian candidate for the Commission on Education and Communication and he also lost the election. So now there is a predominance of South Americans, and Europeans in Council. I realize there are many underlying politics at play, regions vote politically, and not always according to merit, trading takes place, old political conflicts emerge, and ethnic and religious groups come together. From what I was told, South Asia usually has a very small representation in

IUCN's Council, and considering that Council plays an extremely important part in the Union itself, it is a great pity that our region has a weak representation.

However, Pakistan did well, we have a Regional Councilor in West Asia, the resolutions we submitted were adopted, and there were no conflicts between the NGO's and government participants.

Isn't anything happening in South Asia that deserves to be represented at such forums? And although I found it interesting to learn about Australia's northern prawn fishery, I could not help thinking of the large trawlers sitting in our waters, the tons of pollution killing our mangroves, and the thousands of fishermen and women whose livelihood is threatened by overfishing.

Resolutions

The Resolutions formed a major part of the Congress and were spread over different days. The NGO's from Pakistan, submitted seven resolutions. I found this entire process very interesting and informative. It provided an insight into the details of the issues IUCN deals with, the importance of the membership in directing these resolutions, voting on them, and therefore ensuring commitments from IUCN for the future.

It was exciting to vote for or against a

resolution one felt strongly about, and I enjoyed the debates, and sentiments expressed by other members, and their opposing positions.

Each member NGO had one vote, and Shirkat Gah had received proxy votes from some of the NGOs who had not been able to attend. The CEESP's resolution was quite a controversial one, with a lot of politics behind it. However it was adopted without too much controversy, and we were all relieved.



Text of the Resolution on Protected Areas, adopted in the Congress, which was presented by IUCN-Pakistan and sponsored by Shehri-CBE

Protection and Conservation of Biological Diversity of Protected Areas from the Negative Impacts of Mining and Exploration

CONSIDERING that protected areas of various definitions and categories are home to substantial portion of the earth's biological diversity, threatened species, indigenous communities, lifestyles, and cultures;

NOTING that protected areas act as an important natural system for the regulation of the world's climate balance;

RECALLING that a large majority of State members of IUCN are signatories to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

ACKNOWLEDGING that many of IUCN's State members have established national systems of protected areas to guarantee the conservation of biological diversity;

CONCERNED by the negative social and environmental impacts associated with the rapid growth of mining and mineral exploration activities world-wide with particular reference to the risks posed to the preservation of biological diversity in protected areas;

RECOGNIZING that the positive endeavours of states, environmental groups, and threatened communities require strong legislative instruments to strengthen their

efforts for nature conservation;

The World Conservation Congress, at its 2nd Session in Amman, Jordan, 4-11 October 2000:

1. **CALLS** on all IUCN's State members to prohibit by law, all exploration and extraction of mineral resources in protected areas corresponding to IUCN Protected Areas Management Categories I to IV;

2. **RECOMMENDS** that:

a) In categories V and VI, exploration and localised extraction would be accepted only where the nature and extent of the proposed activities of the mining project indicates the compatibility of the project activities with the objectives of the protected area;

b) authorization for localised exploration and mining require an environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the project and approval by the relevant competent authority and stakeholder groups after public disclosure of the EIA draft document; and

c) authorised exploration and mining projects be subject to strict planning, operating, monitoring, and post-use restoration conditions.

3. **URGES** that proposed changes to the boundaries of protected areas, or to their categorization, to allow for the exploration or localized extraction of mineral resources, should be subject to procedures at least as rigorous as those involved in the establishment of the protected area in the first place;

4. **RECOMMENDS** that exploration and extraction of mineral resources and allied infrastructure development work, which is outside of a protected area, but which may negatively affect the values for which the protected areas were established, should be subject to:

a) EIA preparation and approval from relevant competent authority and stakeholder groups after public disclosure of the EIA draft document; and

b) strict planning, operating, monitoring, and post-use restoration conditions.

Sponsors:

Shehri: Citizens for a Better Environment, Pakistan

Society for the Protection of Nature and Natural Resources in Lebanon (SPNL)

Green Line Association, Lebanon.



The entire resolution process is complicated and tedious. I saw the role of the IUCN-Pakistan Secretariat behind the scenes, and the hard work they put in to ensure a smooth and efficient process. It was also very apparent that some people knew the workings of IUCN better than others. Sir Martin Holgate would intervene each time a resolution got stuck in controversy and he would invariably find a solution. In fact I enjoyed listening to his opinions, it made the resolution process more interesting.

Business and Technical Discussions

IUCN's programme financial plan, membership dues and policy, and auditors reports were all discussed during the business sessions. The proposed 3% increase in membership dues caused quite a debate, as many members felt that this would have an adverse effect on the membership, and it would discourage others to join.

I did not get much opportunity to participate in the programme meetings, mainly because there were concurrent sessions between the programmes and the plenary, and I could not attend both.

However I did attend one WES-CANA meeting, and could not understand what Pakistan was doing as a part of West Asia. The meeting was a shock, between French, and Arabic, I literally could not understand anything. So although Pakistan is at a political advantage being in West Asia, as far as issues and language are concerned, I found few reference points.

Other Perspectives

This was the first IUCN Congress I had attended, and I enjoyed it. I

learnt a lot in terms of environmental issues, and current debates.

I saw the importance of the membership in deciding IUCN's direction for the future, watched the politics behind the scenes, and realized that this was a tough organization to survive in. The only thing that worried me was the subtle shift in terminology, language, and approach that I noticed within the leaders of the Union. From the President's speech attacking environmental activists at Seattle, to references to the World Bank in the DC's address, to the DC's interview in which she called the World Bank a "very competent development institution", and to the use of the word shareholder instead of stakeholder, were changes I had not expected.

This move towards a World Bank attitude is disturbing, and I hope it does not mean radical change, because for us in the membership, IUCN is an international organization with a human face, and I sincerely hope that the current perspectives do not change.

On a more personal note, this may have been my first Congress, but it was also the first Congress my sister Aban was unable to attend in 15 years of working for IUCN. I missed her a lot, and so did her staff, and her team of people in the

Asia Region, who voiced it.

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I was often mistaken for Aban, and everywhere I went people came up to me and sent her their thoughts, prayers, and good wishes. I felt very proud of her, and in her absence felt surrounded by the warmth and goodwill she generated through these people. I remember walking into the Asia Region meeting, and immediately realized I had walked into her territory, when most people thought Aban had walked in. It also made me realize what a large, diverse and complicated region she leads, and

how difficult the task must be within IUCN's ruthless arena.

Caught in the Crossfire

At the end of the Congress I was planning to stay on in Jordan for a two-week holiday, but political events in the region were getting worse. The increasing conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis was escalating each day and by the end of the Congress I decided to return home.

The first time I noticed the unrest was when one evening some of us had decided to go out for dinner, and on our way to the restaurant the taxi driver dropped us off at the wrong spot. So we had to walk the rest of the way.



As we approached a crossroads I noticed traffic had come to a standstill, people were climbing on to the roof of their cars, and there were tanks parked at the crossing. I froze, and wondered which war zone I had walked into. A few seconds later a convoy raced by, and to my horror I saw a jeep pass which was surrounded by a "human shield." Guards with guns pointing at the public, and hanging out of the windows of the jeep surrounded the vehicle. I was told that it was Qaddafi. By the time I got to the restaurant my knees were shaking.

So this was the Middle East. I got a crash course in Middle East politics in ten days, and felt what it was like to be in the middle of a war zone. Queen Noor in her opening speech, spoke of the violence in the region and we prayed for peace. Eight days later in her closing address she again called on the international community to intervene to stop the violence.

One night the host country was taking us for dinner to the Dead Sea, and it was the same evening that Israel had given an ultimatum to the Palestinians that the violence should stop in 24 hours or else... Given the fact that the Dead Sea separates Jordan from Palestine by a few kilometers, and our dinner spot with 2,000 foreign delegates, US State Dept. included, was within target practice

range we would have been sitting ducks for an Israeli attack.

At the Congress, some people said the dinner had been cancelled, but then Yolanda assured us everything was alright. The Americans on the bus with me became extremely nervous as we

approached the venue for dinner. The lowest point on earth was a hot and humid place, and it was an interesting evening.

The day after the Congress was over we went to Jerash. On the way, I noticed helicopters flying overhead and was told that they were bringing wounded Palestinians to

Jordan's hospitals. We also passed a Palestinian settlement, on a low-lying area, and on the hills above it the Jordanian army with tanks and personnel had taken their positions. The taxi driver said it was to suppress an uprising, in case the Palestinians in Jordan decided to support their people across the border.

The next day, a US naval boat was bombed in Aden, and a car bomb exploded at the British Embassy in Yemen. Tension was high on the streets of Amman and my plans for a two-week holiday were rapidly disappearing. Instead, I was getting very scared.

This was no place to be, and anything could happen at any time, as I knew I was in the middle of

one of the oldest, and most bitter conflicts our world has ever known. I had thought I would wait as long as possible before canceling our plans, but the risks were increasing and since all my colleagues were leaving I felt it was wise to return home as well. If I were to stay on, I had been warned by the local people not to visit any Christian biblical sites, hotels, bazzars, and places frequented by Americans. Hardly a holiday atmosphere.

So I had to leave, got the last seat on the flight, and was only able to relax when we reached Karachi and I felt safe again.

As I left Amman, I thought it was ironic that this land which has given birth to three great religions of the world, lay in bloodshed. Religion preaches peace and tolerance, and yet there are more wars fought in the name of religion than any other.

Since Amman, I have watched events in the Middle East closely. The news headlines move from calling it a crisis to unrest to crisis again. A meeting to salvage the broken peace process was held in Cairo but the killings continue.

And what of environmental security and sustainable development? How can we ever achieve these ideals as long as the conflict continues? Security and peace mean freedom from fear, and in that war torn, bullet ridden region, peace still remains a distant dream. ■

(Meher Marker Noshirwani is Co-ordinator, Shirkat Gah)



CLIMATE CHANGE

Making The Energy Shift

*As governments and environmentalists from the world over gather in the Hague, Netherlands, in the **Climate Change Convention** to discuss policies and plans to combat climate change, **PANOS Institute** analyses the future trends in the energy sector and their impacts on the global environment*

Total world energy consumption grew by 0.2% in 1999, compared with an average of 0.9% over the previous 10 years. This was made up of a growth of 1.4% in OECD countries, whose economies were doing well, and an overall drop of 2.3% in developing countries, many of whose economies were in trouble. But several developing countries have shown that energy use and carbon dioxide emissions can fall even during periods of growth, and are doing more than developed countries to reduce their emissions, even though they have not yet made any commitments to do so.

Alternative energy sources, including renewables, exist but haven't yet been taken up on a large enough scale to make much difference. Energy efficiency measures and new energy-reducing technologies, such as non-polluting cars, are also ways of reducing the dependency on fossil fuels. Mexico's National Commission for Energy Conservation has introduced efficiency standards for boilers, refrigerators, buildings, electric motors, and air conditioners. However there has been considerable political and civil society resistance in many countries to some of the possible alternatives - many people fear they will be costly, or ineffective.

Production and consumption must be shifted from their present heavy dependence on coal and oil to other energy sources. Is this possible? According to UNEP, the Unit-

reducing the amount of energy used in building. Scientific research is only part of the issue: getting the technologies adopted is a complex of cultural, social, institutional and commercial factors. A study of seven European countries recommended that, in devising strategies for energy-saving, policy-making should recognise that it is a social process.

Dr Elizabeth Shove, Centre for Science and the Environment, Lancaster University, UK

For many years the conventional energy sector has dismissed alternative energy sources as ineffective, small-scale and expensive, and pointed to high costs of switching from one to the other. This may be about to change: gradual growth of the alternative energy sector, technological developments, innovative investment, and environmental concern are coming together

to give alternative energies the critical mass they need. Tomorrow magazine sees them as the new "new thing" to excite the stock markets.

"When capital starts underwriting change instead of resisting it, markets are born - and worlds transformed - overnight."

Others however are less sanguine, pointing out that despite their



Wind power in Tunisia - The fastest growing energy technology worldwide. Sean Sprague / PANOS pictures

ed Nations Environment Programme, "current and expected" technologies (alternative energies and energy efficiency technologies) could reduce global carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels from 6 billion tonnes in 1990 to 2 billion tonnes in 2100.

Cultural and Social Factors

A major element in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in many countries will be energy saving, including



expressed enthusiasm for clean energy sources, major oil companies are still searching for new oil and gas sources - to such an extent that sceptics say the major companies' "green energy" programmes are nothing but a public relations exercise ("greenwash").

Bangladesh, the South China Sea and the Senkaku Islands between China and Japan are just some of the areas where companies and governments are vying for control of new oil and gas fields. If these and other fields prove to be as rich as the developers hope, and are opened up for exploitation, they will enable the world to continue its dependence on fossil fuels for many years to come.

Lighting up the world: electricity
Most of the world's electricity is produced using coal or other fossil fuels, making electricity, along with transport, the major culprit in creating greenhouse gases. But there are less polluting ways of producing electricity, and ways of using less electricity to produce the same amount of goods. Many factors are in a period of dramatic change at the moment: industry ownership and investment, technologies and materials, information technologies, the design of goods and processes, social and environmental concern, could all work together to produce a far cleaner and more efficiently electrified 21st century.

Subsidies

To give new companies and new technologies a fair chance to enter the growing energy market, gov-

ernments are being pressed to end the huge subsidies and tax breaks that protect fossil fuel energy.

For instance, 14 developing countries, responsible for 250% of carbon dioxide emissions from industrial sources, slashed fossil fuel subsidies by 45% between 1990 and 1995, from \$60 billion to \$33 billion. Cutting subsidies has a big effect in promoting more efficient use of energy. Over the same period, OECD countries reduced subsidies by only 20.5%, from \$12.5 billion to \$9 billion.

At present, the US subsidises the fossil fuel industries to the tune of \$20

billion a year. while the total fossil fuel subsidy globally is calculated to be around \$300 billion. The OECD estimates that removing subsidies for fossil fuels in the EU and Japan alone would trigger efficiency measures that would reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 13% by 2005.

Governments could also level the playing field by requiring old companies to observe the same stringent environment standards as new ones.

Scale

"Micropower" has become a new buzzword the generation of electricity by small units, either feeding into a national grid or close to the point of use. Even domestic-scale units are on the horizon. Micropower can be efficient, clean and cheap. Developing countries may be able to leapfrog to it, especially for serving poor and rural

areas, where two billion people worldwide are not yet connected to electricity grids.

Renewable energy sources

Wind is the fastest-growing energy technology worldwide, with 22% growth in the period 1990-98: Germany has the most installed capacity, followed by the US, Denmark, India and Spain.

Solar energy grew 15.9% in 1990-98. The price of solar cells is falling fast and will soon be level with the costs of rival energy sources. The oil company BP, for example, showed its confidence in the future of solar power in 1997 by making a significant investment. EP believes that by 2050, 50% of the world's energy will come from renewables. At present, Kenya probably has the largest unsubsidised solar capacity, with around 100,000 rural people using small solar panels charging car batteries for domestic uses.

Hydrogen may well be the principal fuel of the future. Fuel cells - in which hydrogen combines with oxygen from the air to produce electricity - are just starting to be produced commercially. In some types of fuel cell, the only waste product is water.

- Biomass (fuel wood, charcoal, agricultural residues) accounted for 14% of world energy use in 1995. It is much more climate-friendly than fossil fuels, and the IPCC projects it should form 25-46% of the total by 2100. Plantations can be grown specifically to power electricity generation, or waste products can be used. For example, in Spain, sludge residue from olive oil making, powers a small generator producing electricity for four villages.



Cleaner fossil fuels

- In the US about 50% of electricity is generated by coal; less in Europe and more in India. Coal-powered generating plants using new technologies can be much less polluting and more efficient than old ones: according to UNEP the conversion efficiency of existing plants could be doubled. In countries with coal deposits - such as India and Russia - there is pressure from the coal industry to continue using coal. Environmentalists say that there is no such thing as "clean coal", and its use should be phased out. A 1990 study in Karnataka, India, showed that a mix of efficiency savings and renewables would be cheaper and more productive than the state utility's plan to expand use of fossil fuel.
- Natural gas use is increasing. Electricity from gas turbines produces only one quarter as much carbon dioxide as from other fuels.

Nuclear power

Nuclear energy is controversial. Some people, including a few environmentalists, support it, saying it is a more environmentally-friendly option than coal, and less risky than is generally believed. The World Energy Council has

supported a nuclear reactor in India as part of its greenhouse gas emissions reduction programme. But many non-governmental organisations and governments say nuclear power has no place in a safe and sustainable future. After some years in the doldrums, at least in industrialised countries, nuclear power consumption increased in 1999 by 3.8%, according to HP, led by a sharp increase in the US.

Technological visionaries Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins and L Hunter Lovins argue that with presently available technologies it is becoming more cost-effective for businesses to make changes in their designs, processes and products. If they made a number of common-sense changes, the global warming problem would almost disappear.

Environment and Development

Most developing countries see electricity as vital for economic growth, and they may not at first be concerned that electricity is also often a key contributor to environmental problems. It is often assumed that environmental problems will automatically be

solved as countries develop, but there is very little evidence that this really happens. In fact, it is only when an explicit demand arises that environmental problems are addressed. More research is needed to find out what factors tend to create such a demand.

Dr. Peter Pearson, Centre for Environmental Technology, Imperial College, London

Momentum of new technologies

Some out-and-out optimists believe that technological development is gathering such momentum that businesses will be able to solve the problems with minimal direction from governments.

Technological visionaries Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins and L Hunter Lovins argue that with presently available technologies it is becoming more cost-effective for businesses to make changes in their designs, processes and products. If they made a number of common-sense changes, the global warming problem would almost disappear. Half the threat would disappear if energy were used more efficiently, a quarter with improved management of forests and soils, most of the rest if other greenhouse gases (like CFCs) can easily be replaced.

"We believe that the world stands on the threshold of basic changes in the conditions of business... Because of the resource productivity revolution, the actions and requirements needed to protect the climate are profitable for business right now, no matter how the science turns out and no matter who takes action first. Arguments that it would be too expensive and economically harmful to mitigate the rate of increase in greenhouse gases are upside down. It costs less to eliminate the threat to our global climate, not more..."

Persuading to change

Others believe that leadership and actions by governments and others will be needed to make the shift from fossil fuels happen. It is not enough for the science and technology to exist. People as well as businesses have to be convinced of the benefits of adopting new technologies or new patterns of behaviour. Building confidence between governments, and in the general public - is essential. □

(Just a Lot of Hot Air? A close look at the Climate Change Convention - PANOS Institute, London, UK)



WILDLIFE

The tragic death of a peaceful creature

Aziz Ranjhani recounts the tragic series of events which led to the violent death of an "Indus Blind Dolphin", and demands accountability of those vested with the powers to save these peaceful and precious creatures.

An Indus Dolphin on Saturday evening (December 1st, 2000) was killed by some unaware people at village Punhall Khan Jamali, near Johi in the flowing water of Johi Branch, as it strayed away from Dadu Canal through the Rice Canal. The sad incident took place when a young boy Naseer Ahmed Leghari of a nearby village was swimming in the flowing water of Johi Branch along the (F.P.) Flood Protective Bund at the spot of R.D 40.



Suddenly, he saw a huge body moving in the water. He shouted loudly. The residents of the nearby villages came for the "rescue". They did not wait to assess the situation and called their armed men from the village to kill this peaceful and rare creature. They opened fire from their automatic rifles upon this blind indus dolphin, locally called the "Andhi Bhulan".

Then they put the body of the killed dolphin on a cart and went to the nearby city of Johi for "display" and to make an impression upon the people of their bravery. A large number of people came out to see the body of blind dolphin. The

This sad incident occurred due to lack of awareness of the people regarding the wildlife and other environmental issues and the negligence of the Wildlife Department.

majority of the people present there also did not ascertain the identification of the killed body. The killers looked happy and cheered their action.

On receiving this information, I rushed to the spot where the killed dolphin was kept outside the Johi town where hundreds of people were coming to see this "special creature". I observed two bullet holes on the right side, near the wings of the dolphin and also a minor wound caused by an axe.

This sad incident occurred due to lack of awareness of the people regarding the wildlife and other

What a Waste!!!

environmental issues and the negligence of the Wildlife Department.

To save this rare creature (dolphin), Sindh Wildlife Department with the financial assistance of United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and technical support from various other agencies has established a Blind Dolphin Rescue Unit in Sukkur. It is requested of the concerned authorities and environmental agencies to come to the rescue and save the remaining dolphins in the Indus, otherwise they would soon become extinct. □

(Aziz Ranjhani is a Member of Shehri-CBE)



SPOTLIGHT ON THE PRESS

Illegal bus terminuses emerge in city areas

DAWN, December 3, 2000

Haphazard parking of the upcountry bound buses near Empress Market, Liaquatabad's Al-Karam Square and Karimabad petrol pump, have become a major source of traffic blockade, causing unnecessary delays and wastage of fuel, besides polluting the atmosphere.

People residing in apartments, situated near Empress Market and Al-Karam Square and the patients visiting nearby hospitals, suffer as drivers of buses constantly blow pressure horns to attract passengers.

NEPRA to hear Karachiites objections in Islamabad!

THE STAR, Nov. 11, 2000

NEPRA has invited objections from power consumers against the recent power tariff rise allowed to the Karachi Electric Supply Corporation but bottlenecks will make it virtually impossible for consumer to submit their objections.

NEPRA will start the hearings in Islamabad of the Karachi public's objections on November 15 against the tariff increase of 13 paise allowed to KESC. This simple order appears like a deliberate attempt to prevent citizens from officially submitting their complaint.

Thirty three eucalyptus trees cut down in city park

THE STAR Nov. 23, 2000

One of the worst cases of biodiversity damage in the city in recent times was recently witnessed in Talib Chaman Park in Block J of North Naziamabad managed and maintained by DMC central in the presence of the watchmen and malies.

The firewood mafia said "the mosque management has asked us to do so and carried away the entire wood mass free of charge."

The trees were twenty five to thirty years of age, each grown and reared at the cumulative gross investment of lakhs of rupees over its life time.



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.

Unauthorized Construction On Plot No. C/133BL-4, K.A.E.C.H.S

This is to inform that the owner of Plot No. C/133 Block 4, K.A.E.C.H.S., has started illegal construction in violation of the building bye-laws.



not start any construction works without bringing in the knowledge of KBCA.

However, he is not honoring his undertaking and has started the construction works without

As a result of the constant complaints made to the Chief Controller of Buildings, (CCOB), Karachi Building Control Authority (KBCA) following actions were taken by KBCA.

- 1) Part Demolition of block masonry work on COS.
- 2) Building being officially sealed.

Undertaking was given by the builder to the CCOB, that he himself was going to demolish the illegal structure by his own team and would

prior approval of the esteemed authority and without rectifying the observation made by the authority and has pronounced that he can get away with any other authority which shows that he has no respect of the office of CCOB.

We, the residents of Block-4 request to take an early action in this regard and give order to stop this illegal construction by the concerned authorities. □

Residents of Block 4, K.A.E.C.H.S.



YOUNG VOICES

OF HEAVEN AND HELL

An old Japanese tale goes: A belligerent Samurai once challenged a Zen master to explain the concept of heaven and hell. But the monk replied with scorn, "You are nothing but a lout. I can't waste my time with the likes of you!"

His very honour attacked, the Samurai flew into a rage and pulling his sword from his scabbard yelled, "I could kill you for your impertinence."

"That," the monk calmly replied, "is hell".

Startled in seeing the truth in what the master pointed out about the fury that had him in its grip, the Samurai calmed down at once, sheathed his sword and bowed, thanking the monk for the insight.

"And that," said the monk, "is heaven." □

SOURCE:

Emotional Intelligence by Daniel Goleman

TIT BITS

We all use shampoo but do you know what ingredients are used to make it and what they do? Well, things like cetyl alcohol, stearyl alcohol and glycol stearate are fats which act as oils and keep the hair strands from getting tangled. Dimethicone copolyol adds shine and reduces static charges. Guar gum adds body; a vitamin called panthenol acts as a moisturizer and hydrolyzed animal proteins play the role of super-charged conditioners. □

Do you know?

Dolphins are considered as fishes, yet they are not true fishes because they need to surface at intervals of 30-40 seconds in order to breathe. Their diet consists of shrimps and small fish in pursuance of which they enter small lakes and are trapped by fishermen. Such freshwater dolphins are generally thought to be the descendants of land mammals and the predecessors of whales.



The partially blind dolphins found in the Indian sub-continent are known as Susu or Gangetic Dolphins. (*Platanista Gangetica*). They grow to a length of 2 to 2.5 metres. In addition to these, other freshwater dolphins are found only in South America and China.

Two types of dolphins exist in our subcontinent. The Ganges variety and the Indus.

There are plentiful dolphins in Ganges river but they are endangered by Indian fishermen. In Pakistan too, the case is the same with the difference that it is on a much smaller scale. There are approx. 300 dolphins in River Indus. These are found in the area from Sukkur till Guddu Barrage on River Sindh. Although this area has been granted special status, yet fishing goes on unchecked. The growth of aquatic plants too produces a rise in the level of the river bed and the dolphins get stuck in shallow water. The largest number of blind dolphins can be seen at Tounsa Barrage where they are easily spotted in the water. □



Anger: The devil within!

Kiran Bashir Ahmad stresses the need of controlling one of the most undesirable of all human emotions - Anger!

Imagine this. You're on your way home after a hectic day. While driving along easily (*or being driven*), another vehicle suddenly overtakes you and cuts you off. Notice your reaction. Is your heart beating faster? Are your hands sweaty? Do you feel blood rushing up to your face? You probably had the reflexive thought, "That stupid idiot!" Well, that's okay.

But if your next thought was, "I can't let him get away with that!" then you probably were a temporary victim of the phenomenon which psychologists call "road rage". Some people go even further than that. Many-a-times, I have witnessed my own driver increase his speed immediately after a vehicle overtakes us. His knuckles whiten as he grips the steering wheel, teeth clench and I have to ask him to slow down, once or twice, before I can make myself heard.

This is a relatively old phenomenon but no research had been done on it until quite recently. It was found that anger is the mood people are worst at controlling. This seems to worsen behind the wheel. When one's mind is on other things, a sudden distraction coupled with anger is very dangerous as it leads to just one thing: slamming down the accelerator on impulse.

Anger is the most attractive of all the negative emotions. Unlike depression, it uplifts the mood and makes people think that whatever they are doing is correct. As it is said, an angry man opens his mouth and shuts up his eyes. I witnessed exactly such a scene some time back. As I was sitting outside

a shop in my car at a busy cross-road, a young man on a motorbike and a Suzuki van happened to speedily come out of different lanes at the same time. Of course they both had to apply brakes. Though both of them were equally at fault, the young man immediately got off his motorbike in a rage, went over to the Suzuki and started pulling its driver out through the window. As it is in such cases, a crowd immediately gathered and pulled him away, still swearing and shouting at the driver who hastily sped away.

Seemingly, this is an everyday happening and most people would agree that it is better to let out one's feelings and "get it over with", (*Though not necessarily in such a violent manner*), instead of letting them boil inside.

I used to think this way too, but now I don't agree. Read on and you'll find out why.

Catharsis, or giving vent to one's emotions relieves one, but temporarily. With anger blood flows to the hands making it easier to grasp a weapon to strike. If this condition is substituted in "road rage" we will notice that this is the reason why the driver suddenly has a firmer grip on the steering wheel. Also, the heart rate increases and he sits alert for action. Apart from this, the most important point is that there is a sudden rush of hormones, for e.g. adrenaline, which generates energy. This provides the basis for action which can either be striking, accelerating the speed or just yelling.

The physiological changes mentioned above are just temporary

but increase in such bouts of anger can lead to long term side effects as was observed by researchers in a study conducted on heart patients at Stanford University Medical School. It produced some amazing results. The researchers noticed that as soon as the patients recounted some bitter memory, the pumping efficiency of their heart dropped by 5%. (*In some cases it dropped to 7%, which is a dangerous level*).

This alone does not prove that anger is fatal but it is one of several interacting factors, which can be pretty dangerous when combined. Anger does not affect only the middle aged heart patients in this way, but it has certain effects on juveniles too. According to Peter Kaufman, acting chief of a branch of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, "Take a 20 year old who repeatedly gets angry. Each episode of anger and hostility adds an additional stress to the heart by increasing his heart rate and blood pressure, which causes micro tears in the heart".

These findings do not suggest that one should suppress anger totally, as "that too can magnify the body's agitation and hereby raise blood pressure". Therefore the most appropriate solution to this paradox lies in forgiving and forgetting – and the too on the roads. That is something which depends on one's own personality; for which a solution is yet to be found.

So control your passion before it controls you! □

Editor, Young Voices
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. Will there be direct election to all tiers of local governance?

Shehla Zia, Sharafabad, Karachi

A. Direct elections will only be held at the Union Council level, while seats for the District Council and Tehsil Council will be filled through indirect elections.

Q. In which districts of Sindh will local bodies elections be held in the first phase?

Shahid Kazmi, Korangi, Karachi

A. Districts Larkana, Shikarpur and Jacobabad.

Q. Which laws prevent mining in the National Parks of Sindh province?

Hanif Ahmed, Latifabad, Hyderabad

A. Sindh Wildlife Protection Ordinance 1972
Sindh Wildlife Amendment Act 1993
Sindh Government Notification 1997.

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.
206-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 2001! Join Shehri and do your bit as a good citizen to make this city a clean, healthy and environmentally friendly place to live in!

NEIGHBOURHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Mobilizing citizens participation

Sumreen Mirza writes about a recently initiated youth program of Shehri, focusing on encouraging citizens mobilization for better management of their neighbourhoods, through increased awareness and participation

Shehri-CBE continues its commitment to bring Pakistani youth into the fold of civic responsibility through a carefully crafted project that involves students from the International School located in Clifton. Through the project, these talented youth will be able to actively engage in neighborhood management.

The Model Neighborhood Management Plan is a well-rounded program that allows students to figure out first hand how to create a clean, safe, and beautiful neighborhood with the cooperation of residents in a designated area of P.E.C.H.S. The final product is a neighborhood plan, which can hopefully be replicated by other neighborhoods in the same housing society in partnership with additional schools. Residents, newly equipped with the plan will have the knowledge and the mechanism to actively participate in the proper management of their neighborhood.

Our collaboration with the International School serves three purposes. Students fulfill their service requirement, Shehri engages youth in civic service, and the community benefits from the neighborhood plan that is developed.

Students will get in-depth exposure to the field by visiting NGOs who are currently involved in successful community plans, conducting a community needs sur-

vey in their designated neighborhood, analyzing the survey results, and making a presentation to residents.

Cooperatively, students and residents will identify priorities and devise strategies to address them. Students will also become familiar with government agencies so that agency responsibilities in delivering municipal services are also included in the plan. Shehri will be facilitating all of these interactions. The students will also design and maintain a website for this project so that all team members stay informed of their progress and so that residents and general public can also access their findings.

The students will also help to brief the neighborhood on the new local government plan recently announced by General Pervez Musharraf, thereby contributing to Shehri's voter education project

as well. This will also help cultivate civic education and responsibility in the youth.

The first project meeting was held on Friday, November 24, 2000. The



The project planning process begins

meeting was followed by a visit of the project team to the office of "Neighbourhood Care", a community based NGO, based in PECHS Block 2. The purpose of this visit was to provide the students with some orientation on a functioning model of citizens mobilization for solving neighbourhood concerns.

Mr. Hashmi of the Neighbourhood Care, briefed the team on the functioning of their neighbourhood management program. The main services provided by the program include security, garbage collection, street lightening and recreational development.

The students also visited some of the development projects being undertaken by Neighbourhood Care and took notes.

Following this visit, the students hope to complete the neighborhood survey by the end of December and finalize the neighborhood management plan by February of next year. If the students' dedication and enthusiasm is any indicator, we can expect great results from their work. □

PROJECT TEAM

Activity Leader
Farhan Anwar

Activity Co-ordinator
Sumreen Mirza

CAS Supervisor
Arshyia Azher Beg

Students
Aqeel Sattar
Mohammad Abbas
Mohammad Qadir
Sabah Gailani
Lelia Mirza
Adnan Abdul Rahman
Ali Malik



Visit to Neighbourhood Care