



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

July-Dec, 2006 Vol. 17/No. 2

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THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT ONE STEP CLOSER TO GOOD GOVERNANCE

Shehri highlights the concept, importance and principles of freedom of information and traces the historical perspective of the freedom of information related legislative process in Pakistan

Any citizen has the right to access information and record held by public bodies, subject to some restrictions. FOI refers to a situation in which citizens can easily seek and receive information from the government department and public bodies. Generally, it includes:

- * the right to obtain information held by government department and public bodies,
- * the right to know reasons for decisions taken by public bodies that affect them; and
- * the right to have personal information relating to yourself corrected or updated where such information is incorrect, incomplete or misleading.

Is FOI a human right?

The right to access information is one of the basic human rights, and is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1976) and UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection (1985).

The Constitution of Pakistan 1973 does not provide for a separate constitutional right to freedom of information, rather it includes "right to expression", which includes freedom of information, as one cannot express unless information is available. This position is clearly stated in Mohammad Nawaz Sharif vs. President of Pakistan case in which the Supreme Court held that the right of citizens to receive

Freedom of Information Legislation in Pakistan: A Historical Perspective

Globally, 68 countries have enacted FOI laws. Sweden was the first country to enact a Freedom of Information Act in 1766. In South Asia, only Pakistan and India have enacted FOI laws.

Brief History of Freedom of Information Legislation in Pakistan

There have been many efforts for the FOI legislation in Pakistan. Realizing the international trends towards more openness and transparency, several attempts have been made in the last two decades to introduce FOI legislation in the country with the aim of promoting transparency and accountability in the government departments. A brief overview of these efforts is given as under:

1990

First attempt was made by Professor Khurshid Ahmad, Senator and Naib Amir of Jamaat-i-Islami who tabled a Bill on FOI in the Senate in 1990. This Bill was introduced in the Senate as a private Bill and was forcefully resisted and failed to be enacted.



Freedom of information:
First among all rights

Courtesy:
FNst

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SHEHRI

206-G, Block 2, P.E.C.H.S.,
Karachi-75400, Pakistan.
Tel/Fax: 92-21-453-0646
e-mail/address:
shehri @ onkhura.com
(web site)
www.shehri.org

EDITOR

Farhan Anwar

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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.

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Composed by : Printed by :

Shah Graphics Samina Printers
Tel : 660 88 22

For the printing of this newsletter

SHEHRI-CBE

acknowledges the support of

The Friedrich-Naumann

Foundation

SHEHRI-CBE

acknowledges the support of
The Friedrich-Naumann
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EDITORIAL

Karachi: A City of Dreams!

Every Karachite dreams of Karachi as being a truly well planned and developed city that is prosperous and at peace with itself. Given the prevailing lawlessness, institutional bankruptcy, a degrading quality of life, to some it may look like a distant dream, to others a lost cause. But are things really that bad? Should we lose all hope? Can we not all get together and set a timeline for achieving our dreams for a city we all love - fight against the odds and be counted?

What about doing a visioning exercise? Lets say - Karachi 2025: A Dream City! A city at peace, with strong institutions of civic governance, with a properly functioning infrastructure network, a thriving economy and offering varied forms of fun and recreation for its citizens -

Is it too much to ask for? If not then how do we get there? Faith would play a big role in achieving the 'Dream

City' status - faith in ourselves as caring citizens and faith in our destiny as citizens of the future. But faith alone will not get us where we long to reach. Making Karachi a 'Dream City', would require firstly a 'vision' - a vision we all help nurture and a vision we all share. Then comes planning - whether we work in the government or form part of the civil society, we all have a role to play a duty to perform to transform a vision into a reality.

Having tolerance for each others views and opinions, learning to share and care, strengthening our institutions, making their functions transparent and open, investing in our human and social capital are some of the landmarks that would help define a future of the city we can all take pride in.

So, lets have a dream. Lets have a vision for the city the all love. Stand up, have faith and save yourselves!!! □

information can be spelt out from the freedom of expression guaranteed in Article 19 of the Constitution.

After the promulgation of Freedom of Information Ordinance, 2002, it is now a legal entitlement of citizens of Pakistan to get information and record held by government departments and public bodies subject to some exceptions. In absence of this law, the citizens were not entitled to get information as a legal right.

Why is FOI important?

* Public access to information is crucial for good governance and democratic development.

* It allows citizens to participate in the decisions affecting their lives.

* It allows citizens to monitor the government's performance, thus making it more accountable.

FOI can make people's life better in the following ways:

1. Less Corruption, More Transparency

Corruption thrives on secrecy. Individuals and institutions become corrupt when there is no public scrutiny of what they do. The more they operate in the public gaze, the less corrupt, and more efficient they are likely to become.

2. Freedom from Hunger

It may look odd to attach freedom from hunger with freedom of information. Yet, the Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen has argued that famines do not happen in countries with a free press. His argument is that famine is caused by inaction of government. Government does not dare to be inactive on such an important

issue when they are subject to constant media scrutiny.

3. A Healthier Society

It may also seem strange that how FOI contributes to a healthier society. But in countries, where information can readily be available on different public interest issues, the response is vigorous and the severity of the public harm minimal. For example, the HIV -AIDS infection spread rapidly because of the lack of publicly available information about the virus and how to avoid it. Countries that have an effective public information program have been able to turn the tide of HIV infection.

4. A Cleaner Environment

Decisions which cause damages to environment are mostly made behind closed doors. These decisions can be avoided if all planning decisions are accompanied by an environment-impact study, which is in turn made available to the public.

5. Respect for Human Rights

Violations of human rights have their roots in secrecy. Torture and other such violations are almost by definition, something that takes place behind closed doors. For example, how justice has been done once the case of Mukhtaran Mai was uncovered. This kind of information compels the government to take action against those who are violating human rights.

6. Respect for Privacy

Through FOI, it can be seen what kind of information the government agencies have accumulated about individuals. Furthermore, this provides an opportunity to make sure that information about them is accurate. If it is not the case, wrong and potentially dam-

1994

The Public Accounts Committee, headed by Senator Malik Qasim, made the second attempt in 1994. A Freedom of Information Bill drafted by the committee was forcefully resisted by the bureaucracy, and therefore, could not be enacted.

1997

A major development occurred towards enactment of FOI legislation when, on the initiative of Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim, the Federal Minister of Law in the Interim Government headed by Malik Miraj Khalid, the President of Pakistan promulgated a Freedom of Information Ordinance on January 29, 1997. However, the successive government of Mian Nawaz Sharif allowed this Ordinance to lapse and did not enact it into law.

2000

The government of General Pervez Musharraf made public a draft FOI Bill with the aim of soliciting public view.

2001

CRCP, a national non-profit organization, proposed a Model Freedom of Information Act to the Government and launched a Campaign on Freedom of Information (FOI-Pakistan). 2002 The President of Pakistan, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, promulgated the Freedom of Information Ordinance in October, 2002. The Ordinance is applicable to the ministries, attached departments and agencies, and commission or authorities of the Federal Government. It does not apply to public bodies of the provincial or local governments.

2006

Governor Sindh promulgated Freedom of Information Ordinance in Sindh. □



aging decisions would be made.

7. A More Secure Society

Most of the information is held on the pretext that it may harm general interest and to safeguard "national interest and security". Yet, there is a much better argument for saying that public scrutiny of decisions related to defense and intelligence is likely to make for a more secure society. Unaccountable intelligence services often direct their activities against domestic political opponents rather than genuine threats to national security.

FOI can curb such happenings. Furthermore, secrecy can lead to corruption and inefficiency in the security services, which in turn undermines security.

8. More Effective Democracy

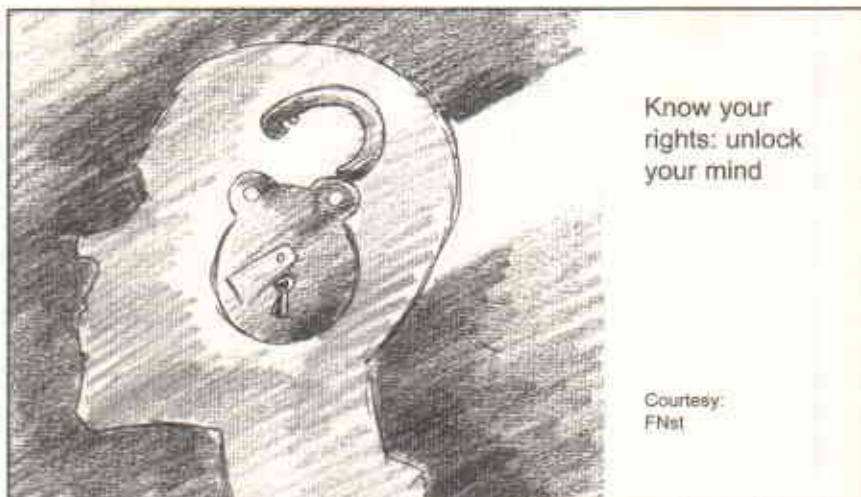
Freedom of information is crucial for effective democracy. How can the electorate make an informed choice, if they are denied information about what the government has been doing? Similarly, political leaders will follow the aspirations of their electorate if they are sure that their action would be scrutinized by the public.

9. Accountability

When civil servants and public officials are sure that people can access the information related to their office and scrutinize their performance and budget, it greatly promotes a sense of accountability. Furthermore, information about the government is essential if the public has to make informed choices.

10. Participation

Two way traffic of information between people and government can provide opportunity for people to participate in decisions affecting their lives. The openness, with publication of documents and the opening of meetings to the public, can have a say in the decision making. The point was



expressed clearly by a senior UN official, the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, Abid Hussein:

"Freedom will be bereft of all effectiveness if the people have no access to , information. Access to information is basic to the democratic way of life. The tendency to withhold information from the people at large is, therefore, to be strongly checked."

What are Basic Principles of Freedom of Information?

In recent years, a number of countries have adopted freedom of information laws. In the process of doing this, some basic principles have emerged that underline good freedom of information legislation. The danger is that, as freedom of information becomes a fashionable phrase, governments may adopt freedom of information laws that do not actually increase public access to information.

In the worst cases, they may even hinder it. Basic principles are important because they provide a measure to test whether a national law will actually increase public access to information. Some general principles are as follows:

1. *Freedom of information legislation should be guided by the principle of maximum disclosure*
- * There must be valid reason(s) to

withhold requested information, and mechanism, a competent neutral authority, to prove that the information is rightly withheld.

- * The right to information should not be restricted only to citizens, but any person who has no nationality of the country in question as well.
 - * Any individual requesting access should not have to demonstrate any particular interest in the information.
 - * No public body should be excluded from the ambit of the law.
2. *Public bodies should be under an obligation to publish key information*
 - * Public bodies should publish all information and proactively disseminate key categories of information through media, official website, etc., irrespective of any request.
 3. *Public bodies must promote open government.*
 - * Improved maintenance of record in the form in which it can easily be obtained by the public.
 - * Promoting of environment in which public awareness about FOI raises. Obstruction of access to information must be dealt severely.
 - * Training of public servants on promoting openness with government.



4. *Exception should be clearly and narrowly drawn*

* The information should not be withheld only on the pretext of harm, public interest, national interest, etc., rather, these vague terminologies should be narrowly and clearly defined.

* Exception should be subject to content-specific case-by-case review, and non disclosure only permitted where it is in the public interest

* Request for information should be processed rapidly and fairly and an independent review for any refusal should be available

* Refusal to provide information must be supported by reason(s).

5. *Individual should not be deterred from making request for information by excessive costs.*

6. *Meeting of public bodies should be open to the public.*

7. *Laws, which are inconsistent with the principle of maximum disclosure should be amended or repealed.*

8. *Individuals who release information on wrong doing - whistle-blowers - must be protected.*

Exceptions to Public Access to Information

FOI is not an absolute right and certain categories of information could be made exceptions to the general rule of public access. There is some information that the public bodies may legitimately keep secret, for example:

1. *National security*

In a time of war or serious tension where armies are standing eye to eye, it would be legitimate not to

reveal the position of arsenal, troops, etc. FOI should not stand in the genuine national security interest.

2. *Law Enforcement*

It would be legitimate not to make information public about the crime under investigation. FOI should not obstruct criminal investigation.

3. *Personal Privacy*

It is legitimate and necessary not to reveal the content of a personal file to another person. FOI should not override an individual's right to privacy.

4. *Commercial Secrecy*

If a new product is under development, the company may withhold the details legitimately so it can not be copied by other companies. The right to information should not stand in the way of legitimate commercial competition.

5. *Public or Individual Safety*

It would be legitimate not to expose the identity and whereabouts of a person if it harms his safety, like providing protection to a witness, etc. FOI should not put an individual's safety at risk.

6. *Protecting the Integrity of Government's Decision-Making*

It may be legitimate for the government authorities not to expose the discussion if the position on it were not adopted. For example, if an issue is under discussion in cabinet, and time is required to adopt a position on the issue, the government may keep secret the discussion for the integrity of government decision-making.

7. *Legally Privileged Information*

In all legal systems, there is some information, which is privileged and may not be revealed such as exchange of information between lawyer and client. The purpose of this is to maintain the confidentiality between lawyer and client and integrity of the judicial process.

8. *Public Economic Interest*

The issues of public economic policy, such as a planned change in interest rates, for example, where revealing information may cause harm to the overall well being of the economy and interest of the public.

Test for Keeping Information Secret

If it appears that a piece of information should not be disclosed, a three-part test must be applied to see whether it should indeed be treated as an exception. These tests are:

1. *Does this information relate to a legitimate aim specified in the FOI law?*

2. *Would its disclosure cause substantial harm to that aim?*

3. *Would it nevertheless be in the larger public interest to disclose the information?*

Any decision of keeping an information secret must be based on the analysis of answers of the above-mentioned questions. If there are reasons, which can be objectively ascertained, that disclosure of certain information would harm the larger public interest, it should be kept confidential as long as the probability of harm remains intact. □



SHEHRI ACTIVITIES

Shehri Seminar on good governance

September 02, 2006 (Hotel Marriott, Karachi)

The speakers said that people should try to assert their ownership over the city resources and various organizations managing these, as with better monitoring the quality of life of the Karachi-ites would hopefully improve.

He pointed out that the DHA had acquired a 14 km long strip along the beach in the name of 'development', adding "if this process continues, then less citizens will have access to beaches as construction would be carried out all along the beach."

He deplored the authorities for evaluating plans for the elite only, instead of the majority, which belonged to middle and lower classes and formed more than 70 per cent of the population.

Other speakers said that actions such as cell phone or purse snatching provoked resistance but illegal allotment of amenity plots in the city went unnoticed. It was due to fact that in the case of purse etc, there was a sense of proprietorship, while in case of amenity plots one did not feel that they belonged to the residents of the city, so nobody raised any hue and cry and the plunder continued, it was pointed out.

They said that a new coastal development plan was being finalised owing to which almost 80 per cent of the

beach, which was a national resource and nobody could restrict anybody's entry to it, would become private and out of bounds for the common people.

Arif Hassan said that some time back the DHA while developing the beach at Seaview Township removed the vendors and others selling low cost edibles, snake charmers, jugglers, and others and the low income group people stopped going there as majority of the families visiting that beach could not afford to buy the expensive food items being sold at the stalls, and that beach became out of the reach of the poor. Similarly now a huge park is being developed at the Clifton beach by the City Government and under a similar exercise people selling low cost food items, etc are being shifted, and after some time this beach will also be out of the reach of the masses.

He said that there were over 150 stalls selling goods made from sea shells for over a century, but now they had been evicted and these people were now selling their goods to shops set up in nearby buildings and their earnings had also declined. All this is going on, but nobody is coming up and raising the issue to protect the right to access the beaches of the poor people, he added.

Another speaker said that many nullahs that used to drain rainwater from the city had been encroached upon

and some of these had even been allotted decreasing their capacity to drain the rainwater and during the recent rains, which were just three inches, many portions of the city remained inundated for many days even after the rains had stopped.

They said that owing to the greed of the people managing the city and national resources vast patches of land had been reclaimed from the China Creek, the back waters for the Karachi harbour, thus increasing the dredging cost of the harbour channel. The DHA had also reclaimed land which had affected the sea current.

One of the speakers said that the tendency to speculate in-land and housing among the middle class people had taken roots owing to which, whenever a new housing scheme was announced it was booked, but as a large number of the people getting these plots or flats were speculators so on one hand many plots and flats remained vacant, and on the other a large number of people who wanted these could not afford to purchase such properties.

The speakers said that the recent rains brought to the fore the follies and extreme shortcomings of the urban planning and development in the city and the people suffered the consequences of overflowing sewers, flooded streets and neighbourhoods, power outages and collapse of communication systems, and most of the civic agencies, government or private, were engaged in a heated blame game, accusing each other for being responsible for the unfolding crisis.

Arif Hassan, Arif Bilgaumi, Roland D'Souza, Dr.Noman Ahmad, Amber Alibhai, Farhan Anwar and Hamid Maker spoke on the occasion. Farhan Anwar of Shehri moderated the seminar. □





Shehri Seminar on a vision for Karachi November 17, 2006 (Hotel Marriott, Karachi)

A group of about 80 concerned citizens met on 17th November 2006 to dream about the city of Karachi twenty years from now. With the assistance of urban expert, Arif Hasan of Urban Resource Centre, architect Arif Belgaumi of the Institute of Architects Pakistan, urban planner Farhan Anwar and engineer Roland deSouza of Shehri, an environment and citizen-friendly futuristic visualization for the city was conceived.

It envisaged that, in 2025:

1. The Karachi master-plan will respect the ecology, natural environment and cultural heritage. Priority will be given to the needs of the majority population (comprising the low & lower-middle income groups) and land-use will be determined on the basis of social & ecological considerations. Building control will properly regulate construction and ensure safety and a healthy environment
2. The politicians, planners and citizens shall share a large common space, listening, sharing and caring for the needs of majority. The planning agencies will be free of political interference and the research institutions will provide useful inputs into the political process. The implementation agencies will be competent and accountable to citizens. The various land-owning agencies and municipalities (Cantonment Boards, KPT, etc) will be subservient to CDGK, and the zoning and building regulations will be pro-citizen.

Pedestrians, especially the young, the elderly, and the handicapped, will be kings.

3. The environment will be protected and preserved, including heritage, beaches and forests. All plans and projects will be based on 'sustainability', and it will be ensured that the planet is not killed.
4. The nazim & naib nazims at union council, town & district levels will be elected directly, and citizens' committees will oversee their performance
5. Public hearings will take place for all development projects which will be advertised, and overseen by steering committees. Each project will be the responsibility of one project in-charge (for the duration of the project), and its accounts published quarterly. Every government agency will annually publish a list of its land assets, their current land-use and land value.
6. Development will take place by generating local resources and not by loans from IFIs or other donors. Local consultants and construction companies will be responsible for all development work.
7. The Circular Railway will be functioning and will have been extended into the suburbs of the city. The CDGK's proposal for a BRT system for Karachi will have been imple-

mented. The wholesale and manufacturing markets from the old town will have been shifted to the Northern Bypass and the National Highway. Oil pipe-lines will have been extended to the National Highway thus preventing 25,000 tankers from entering the city every day.

8. 'World class' museums, music, drama, performing arts & cultural activities relating to all faiths and communities will be fully celebrated, participated and encouraged. People will be tolerant, respectful of other people's religious and political affiliations and will glorify diversity.
9. Existing katchi abadis will be upgraded, there are no more evictions; low and lower-middle income housing will be provided by a social housing foundation, which will primarily provide plots
10. The solid waste-management proposal developed by the Governor's Task Force for Improvement of Municipal Services will have been implemented and the recycling industry will have been shifted from the city centre to landfill sites. The more affluent areas of Karachi will be getting their water supply from centrally-operated desalination plants, and municipal water supply will be for the low and lower-middle income settlements.
11. The government will function strictly in accordance with law and the legal system will provide quick justice and equity to all, irrespective of class, creed or ethnicity.

Many participants raised queries about how this vision would be realised. They voiced need for citizen's participation, pressure groups, more organised civil society, consultative decision making, and a need for citizens to come forward and be a part of the process to bring this dream into reality. □





SHEHRI ADVOCACY

In this section, we highlight some of our ongoing advocacy work and seek active citizen participation for ensuring protection of public interest.

Do as you say!

The Chief Controller of Buildings (CCOB), KBCA's statement in Daily Dawn dated 04th September 2006, has come out against regularization and advocated for regulating construction activity.

While we commend him for taking a stand for upholding the law, it would be a good idea if he would also weed out the corrupt elements in his department who are playing with the law to favour the builders.

Given below in detail are some of the violations committed by his staff while approving the plan for plot 151-N/2/PECHS, with the malafide intent to favour the builders.

Violations Committed by KBCA while approving the Plan

Parking Ramp: KBTPR 2002 gives the minimum requirement for ramp gradient as 1:7.5 with a transition space of 8.5' at the start and termination of the ramp. The gradient of this transition space shall be 1:15.

(1) The KBCA has approved a ramp with a gradient of 1:6, and that too without a transition space of 8.5' at the start of the ramp. To cover up their violations and to facilitate the builder in this illegality they have falsely written the ramp gradient as 1:7.5. The elevation at the start of the ramp is +2'-0" and the elevation at the end is +10'-8" thus giving a height gain of 8'-8".

With the horizontal length of 54' and a height gain of 8'-8", the ramp gradient comes to 1:6.2. This is a case of simple mathematical calculation

and it does not require one to be a genius to see KBCA falsifying the ramp gradient to favor the builder.

(2) The minimum width of the ramp has to be 18', whereas in actuality it is 17'. To hide this fact KBCA has not even mentioned the width of the ramp on the plan.

(3) For a helical ramp the turning radius has to be 32', whereas at site it is 17'. This fact has also not been shown on the approved plan.

(4) Regulation 24-2.4 of KBTPR clearly states that "Detailed plan clearly showing entry/exit, gradient of ramp, turning radius, storage spaces, circulation and movement of vehicles etc shall be submitted." Why did KBCA approve a plan which does not incorporate all the details; for the simple reason that by incorporating all the details it would have been difficult for KBCA to approve the plan.

(5) Regulation 24-2.5 of KBTPR clearly states that "16% of total car parking space will be utilized to provide space for motorcycle parking @ 6 motorcycles for every car". KBTPR gives the gradient of ramp for motorcycles as 1:8.5. Since the builder has not provided a separate ramp for motorcycles, therefore, the same ramp will be used by cars as well as motorcycles, and therefore, has to have a gradient 1:8.5.

Hence the ramp is in total violations of the regulations as it has a gradient of 1:6 as against the regulation 1:8.5, the width is 17' as against the regulation 18' and helical turning radius is 17' as against the regulation

32'. Moreover, the transition space of 8.5' at the beginning has also not been provided. The KBCA officers have facilitated the builder by omitting all these violations from the plan.

Parking Requirements:

(6) Regulation 24-2.4 clearly states that "Detailed plan clearly showing entry, exit, gradient of ramp, turning radius, storage spaces, circulation and movement of vehicles etc shall be submitted." Only parking floors have been shown, no detailed parking of the cars has been shown. KBTPR gives the bay width and length for car parking as 8' and 16' respectively.

These are the minimum requirements. Incorporating the bay width and length for car parking with the placement of columns on the parking floor, it can be seen that only 10 cars can be parked on each floor. Thus in all parking for 30 cars has been given, whereas by their own submission on the plan, parking is required for 43 cars. Once again by omitting the detailed showing of car parking on each parking floors, KBCA has favored the builder.

Loft Height:

(7) A loft height of 8' has been approved on the plan, but to cover up this illegality it has been shown as 5'. The factual position can be verified on the plan. The plan has been drawn to a scale of 1:16, that is 1 inch is equal to 16 feet. The loft height has a measurement of half inch on the plan, which translates to 8 on site.

DHA waterfront development

Refer to article and letters in Daily Dawn dated 06-07 September 2006 by the PRO, DHA, titled *DHA defends waterfront project developments* in which the DHA spokesman has aired his thoughts. It goes like this *The DHA took full cognizance of environmental protection, coastal conservation and town planning according to stringent national and international standards and the plan envisages maximum beach-front area to be accessible in its improved yet pristine form, to the general public and shall be inclusive of the facilities that beckon entertainment to the poor classes.* The purpose of land utilization by DHA is for residential and commercial purposes. DHA spokesman says that otherwise this land would be encroached upon or degraded. It states that the DHA was resolved to proceed ahead with the strategic waterfront plans taking positive cue from the intent and content of the detractors" Well, this is the DHA side of the story and some of their views.

As a member of Shehri and a concerned Karachi citizen, I wish to point out the following to the people who love Karachi city and the marine environment. How can the DHA spokesman call *the Tasman Spirit oil spill effected and polluted 14 km Clifton beach development area (with gray / black sand) as pristine.* On one hand the DHA PRO talks of full cognizance to environmental protection and coastal conservation whereas from Clifton beach, Sea View Township, DHA Golf Club, DHA Marina Club and right along Khayaban-e-Ittehad upto the point

where the wetlands once met main Korangi Road near Qayumabad, the DHA has been on a rampage for many years, reclaiming not only beach area facing the sea but also marshy land in the vicinity. Thousands and thousands acres of prime natural wetland area (*sanctuary for a large variety of wild birds like flamingoes, cormorants, plovers, snipes and waders plus and hatchery for loads of marine life fish and fauna*) has been reclaimed without much fuss by the DHA in the name of development at the cost of marine habitat destruction and loss of biodiversity.

Can some one from the concerned DHA department show us (*Karachi citizens*) a copy of the EIA (*Environmental Impact Assessment*) for the areas under discussion.

How can the DHA talk of town planning on stringent national and international standards when Karachi's ecosystem is currently experiencing a massive degradation of its coastline by the DHA themselves for the building of luxurious mega projects for the rich at the cost of the marine environment, which is God's gift to the citizens of Karachi. By the way, Bundal Island facing DHA Marina Club has also been sold out!

It's about time the citizens of Karachi awake from their slumber... Jago SHEHRI Jago! □

Syed Aziz Agha
Member Shehri-CBE



Regulation 25-1.4.4 states that "the loft area up to a maximum height of 5' on bathroom and kitchen shall not be included in FAR". By having a loft of 8' and that too on a show-room, there is no way that the loft area can be excluded from the FAR. However, KBCA has once again illegally excluded the loft area from the FAR.

Side COS towards the Plot Side:

As per regulation 25-3.1 the side COS shall be 7' for Ground Floor and 10% of the building height above ground floor with a maximum 15% of plot width (regulation 25-3.2.5 - as amended.)

(8) As the height of the building above ground floor is 133', 10% of which comes to 13.3'. However, 15% of plot width (75.1) comes to 11' - 3", This is the COS that has to be maintained above ground floor. KBCA has violated this regulations by approving a COS of 10' above the ground floor.

(9) Moreover, they have also allowed the builder to put in columns, beams, and 4' width terraces on all the floors in the COS thus leaving a clear open-to-sky space of only 7 feet.

Regulation 2-39 defines COS as the part of a plot which is to be left completely/ open-to-sky/ except for permissible projections, basement, steps etc. It does not allow columns, beams or balconies in the COS.

Regulation 9-5.1 only allows a balcony and sunshade in COS and that too to a maximum width of 2.5'. Balconies are only allowed on the side facing the roads. Under what law has the KBCA approved a COS of 10' as against the regulation 11'-3", and to further compound the violations have also approved columns, beams and balconies in the already under-approved COS.

Balconies on Side Facing:

Regulation 9-5.3 allows a balcony to have a maximum projection of 3' on a 40 feet wide road. KBCA has once again illegally approved a balcony of 4' against the regulation 3'. Please take action against the concerned TBCO / COB, DCB and ACB of zone and also have the plan canceled after taking all lawful action.

Parking Stand at Hali Road!

Hali Road is a residential road. Unfortunately it has many illegal home schools running in the surrounding areas, Everyday school buses, private pickup, taxis, rickshaws come and park from 8:00 am till approx 1 :00 pm, The numbers are increasing.

This menace is extremely disturbing for the residents, as the drivers wash and clean their vehicles on the road, throw their garbage and generally are a security threat, as people with criminal intent also enter the area and the residents do not know who they are. Many verbal requests have fallen on deaf ears. Even the *Thana* has been called, but to no avail.

It is requested of the relevant authorities to kindly stop this menace before a law and order crisis erupts.

Change of Land use from Residential to CNG Station (Plot No. C-89, Block-7, Scheme 36, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi)

It is requested of the concerned authorities to provide us the following information:

D) *Copy of the technical justification studies made in the light of the planning of the area (as per Regulation 18-4.2.2 of KBTPR 2002, and other town-planning*

laws), including availability of utilities, infrastructure and amenities.

E) *Copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) carried out in accordance with Item H-1 of Schedule-II of Review of IEE & EIA regulations, 2002 notified under PEPA 1997 (noise, air pollution, utilities, infrastructure, crime, introduction of strangers into the neighbourhood, etc.) of the proposed conversation, with date of public participation hearing.*

F) *Copy of the CNG station layout showing:*

- compliance with safety requirements and clearances from equipment*
- entrance and exit provisions for vehicles, and their effect on road traffic.*
- waiting spaces for vehicles, etc.*

This will enable the stakeholders to submit detailed and proper objections and comments.

The stakeholders also draw your attention to the following point:

2) *The Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) specifically states in their Provisional License that: "The CNG station will not be located in the residential area."*

Aside from the fact that such conversion of residential plots to CNG station use is a blatant violation of the applicable laws, the station will be a public nuisance and life/explosion hazard for the residential neighborhood, proving an unbearable overload on the utilities and infrastructure.

Please have mercy on the city and citizens of Karachi and do not let



greed dictate the action of the city government and its officials. Reject the case.

Car Showrooms - Illegal Parking

The menace of illegal parking in residential lanes, footpaths, pavements and center islands and most especially on the residential part and center island of Sir Syed Road, and in vacant plots which are not designated as parking lots, continues unabated.

The byelanes are being used to park and double park vehicles of all manner and shape, some car showrooms owners have even converted the footpaths as mini workshops.

This anti social behavior is a cause of constant headache and nuisance to the residents of the area and yet the law enforcement agencies do absolutely nothing about it.

How can the people repose trust and

As per law, these amenity plots cannot be auctioned off but must be allotted to deserving non-profit organizations that have the ability to utilize them correctly for the benefit of the local area.

Additionally, we reiterate our objections, to the auction of education and health amenity plots for the following reasons:

1. Under KDA/CDGK rules, such plots are only to be allotted to organizations that are recognized/registered by the concerned government department
2. Such amenity plots are not transferable, nor can any part be commercialized (a commercial, money-making school should procure a commercial plot)
3. How has CDGK pre-qualified the parties who will bid for the plots?

| No. | Plot | Area (sq. yds) | Amenity Use |
|-----|-------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. | ST-15 | 1,000 | Dispensary |
| 2. | ST-04 | 1,300 | Dispensary |
| 3. | ST-01 | 666 | Community Centre |
| 4. | ST-21 | 1,200 | Community Centre |

faith in the police when they do not show the will and ability to remove a public nuisance created by these car showrooms owners.

Unlawful auction of CDGK amenity plots

We refer to the CDGK ad in DAWN dated 21/08/2006, and object to the auction of the following amenity plots in Baldia Township.

4. There are over 700 applications for amenity plots pending with the KDA/CDGK for the past many years.

We suggest that these amenity plots not be auctioned until a policy is clarified for the benefit of the CDGK and the buyers. □

KBCA body to monitor projects

We would like to congratulate the CCOB, KBCA to have set up a Committee to oversee availability of infrastructure and utilities in areas where commercialization and change of land use has to take place. May we request him to visit along with Shehri areas where commercialization and change of land use has/is taking place and to see for himself first hand the immense environmental degradation that has/is taking place.

If he will remembers during the tenure of his predecessor many residential plots in Jamshed, Gulshan and Saddar Town were being illegally and unlawfully converted to G+2 flat-sites in complete collusion with the KBCA. Many residents went to court for relief and after a lot of public pressure this tide was stemmed temporarily. Unfortunately, we have personally observed that once again this illegal conversion has begun with a vengeance. Many areas in these towns are witnessing the builder-KBCA nexus at work.

We personally invite him to come and visit these areas and see for himself first hand what your officers and staff are doing. □

Shehri Management

ENVIRONMENT

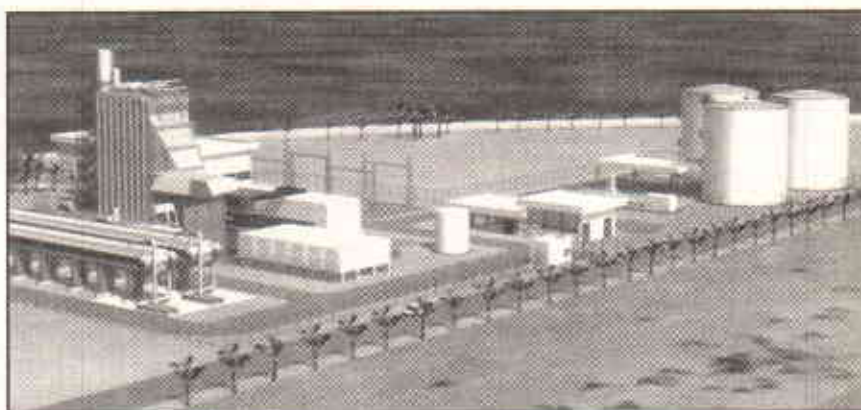
The DHA desalination plant project

Shehri provides a detailed account of the violations of environmental rules and regulations that have been committed by all concerned during the planning, design and implementation of the desalination plant commissioned by DHA along the coast of Karachi

The GOP, PEPA, GOS and SEPA are responsible for the protection, conservation, rehabilitation and improvement of the environment, prevention and control of pollution, and promotion of sustainable development, as fully described in the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997.

Under the "PEPA 1997", a number of rules and regulations have been promulgated, including the Pakistan Environmental Protection Federal Agency Review of Initial Environmental Examination and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2000, the National Environmental Quality Standards (Self Monitoring & Reporting by Industry) Rules, 2001.

The DHA is an entity given corporate status under the provisions of section 4 of the Defence Officers Housing Authority Order, 1980 and the Clifton Cantt. is a corporate entity created under Article 24 of Defence Officers Housing Authority Order, 1980 by bifurcating the original Karachi Cantonment Board. It is a body corporate within the meaning of Section 11 of the Cantonment Act 1924 and is,



The proposed desalination plant: risking the environment

inter alia responsible for the municipal administration of the area known as Defence Officers Housing Authority.

The DHA COGEN LTD. is a public limited company incorporated under the Companies Ordinance, 1984 which has been formed by the DHA for the purpose of setting up a 94-Megawatt (MW) Power Generation and three (03) million gallons per day (MGD) sea-water desalination plant DHA Phase-VIII, Karachi along the public beach.

As per section 12 of PEPA, 1997 no proponent of a project is permitted to commence construction or operation

of a project where the Project is going to cause an adverse environmental effect unless he has filed with the relevant Government Agency an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

As per rule 4 of the IEE/EtA Regulations 2000:

"a proponent of a project falling in any category listed in Schedule 11 shall file an EIA with the Federal Agency and the provisions of section 12 of PEPA, 1997 shall apply to such project"

That as per rule 6 guidelines have to be issued by the PEPA and/or SEPA as the case may be for the manner in which an EIA is to be prepared and submitted by a proponent of a project to the PEPA and/or SEPA. As per rule 9 read with rule 10 after the deposit of the EIA the PEPA and/or the SEPA cause to be published in various newspapers a public notice mentioning the type of project, its exact location and the name and address of the proponent and the places in which the EIA of the project can subject to restrictions if any be accessed.

Due to various characteristics of the Project, it falls into the category of

| Project characteristic | Schedule II of IEE/EIA Rules 2000 |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Transmission lines (11 kV and above) and grid stations | A (3) |
| Water supply and treatment plant costing more than Rs 25 million | F |
| Waste disposal with annual capacity of more than 1 0,000m ³ | G (2) |
| Environmentally sensitive area | I |

projects that require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The DHA COGEN LTD. being the implementor of the Project, which was being treated as a project requiring an EIA to be carried out the DHA COGEN LTD., that informed the SEPA and as per the requirements of clause 9 read with clause 10 submitted an EIA to the SEPA.

The latter in compliance with law invited public comments / objections through a Public Notice published in the daily "Dawn" Karachi dated 19th December 2004 and fixed the public hearing on 20-01-2005 at 10-00 a.m. .

In the mean while, Shehri-CBE had obtained a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), from SEPA. Shehri-CBE on its own initiative approached NEPRA and obtained from them another EIA which was submitted by the DHA COGEN LTD. This showed that substantial omissions had been made in respect of the EIA. Shehri-CBE then filed its comments / objections to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), on 15-1-2005.

That as the 20th January, 2005 was declared a public holiday, on account of Eid-ul-Azha, the public hearing could not be held by SEPA. On inquiry, by telephone, an official of SEPA informed Shehri-CBE that the postponed Public meeting / hearing would be held sometime in February 2005.

After writing to the GOP on 31-1-2003, Shehri-CBE repeatedly tried to contact SEPA officials, but to no avail. Shehri-CBE finally sent a reminder concerning the public meeting, to SEPA, DHA and DHA COGEN LTD. on 12-3-2005. Needles to say no reply was received from any of them.

Shehri-CBE was later informed by SEPA that DHA COGEN LTD. had approached the SEPA and contended that the project did not require an

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), as it fell into the category of projects that require only an Initial Environmental Examination (IEE).

This issue was allegedly referred to PEPA and as instructed by it, SEPA gave its decision dated 26th January, 2005 on the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) submitted by the DHA COGEN LTD.

By not holding a public enquiry and treating it as IEE have acted in violation of their statutory duty, as:

- a) The Project has the characteristics mentioned in Schedule II of the IEE/EIA Regulations 2000, as detailed in paragraph 7 of the petition. This clearly indicates that the Project requires an EIA and not an IEE.
- b) The SEPA had itself acknowledged that there is a prima facies case for an EIA by announcing a Public hearing in the press on 19-12-2004.
- c) On examining the case, it is patently obvious that a number of adverse effects are likely to be caused and that an EIA is by law required to be prepared by the PEPA and SEPA.

The adverse effects that the Project is likely to cause are as follows:

- a) **Location in an environmentally sensitive area:** The construction of an industrial 94 MW plant on the seashore / beach in close proximity to public recreation areas and residential areas (including a high-rise complex) as shown in the sketch of the DHACL area, the aesthetics of" 30 - 45 feet high industrial-type structures with piping and smoke stacks, and air and noise pollution during construction and operation of the Project will adversely affect the residential/recreation area and the peaceful environment of the

What is required from an IEE?

The very definition of IEE as stated under section 2 (xxiv) of the "PEPA 1997" is reproduced as under for the sake of convenience and ready reference:

"Initial Environmental Examination" means a preliminary environmental review of the reasonably foreseeable qualitative and quantitative impacts on the environment of a proposed project to determine whether it is likely to cause an adverse environmental effect for requiring preparation of an environmental impact assessment. (emphasis added) □

beach. Furthermore, as the beach is public property for the unfettered access and recreational use of citizens of Karachi. Its takeover for industrial use is unacceptable.

- b) **Air emissions:** The air emissions from the cogeneration and desalination, including particulate matter, NOx and COx discharges.
- c) **Effluent from the gas turbine & desalination plants:** The liquid effluent, which are being disposed off quite close to the shore, include:
 - (i) brine concentrate
 - (ii) oxygen-deficient water

(iii) leakage from pipes could cause dangerous salt-water intrusion into the aquifer.

(iv) biocides, chlorine, other chemicals, toxic metals, sealants, anti-foaming agents, etc from the process

(v) high discharge temperatures

d) **Effect on marine life:** The anticipated effects include:

(i) impingement/entrainment of marine life in the seawater intake.

(ii) discharge of hot water (about 15°C higher than normal temperature).

(iii) discharge of concentrated brine and other chemicals/toxic metals.

e) **Water supply and treatment:**

Being a water-supply scheme and a treatment plant with a total cost exceeding Rs 25 million, various aspects of the system need detailed study.

f) **Land reclamation:** The reclamation of large tracts of land from the sea, disturbing the natural course of seawater is only allowed for the purpose of construction of ports, harbours, jetties, wharves, quays, bridges and other facilities; it is not allowed for the purpose of establishing residential colonies or setting up cogen / desalination plants.

g) **Grid station:** The setting up of a 94 MW 220/132 kv grid station as a part of the plant, within tens of metres of a residential area is a cause of concern owing to the presence of electromagnetic fields (as decided in 'the 1994 'Shehla Zia' Human Rights Case of the Honorable Supreme Court).

h) **Transmission lines:** Two circuits of 132kv transmission lines, with an approximate length of 8.5 km running along roads that are only 60 feet and 80 feet wide (the minimum clearance required from 132kV overhead transmission

lines is 100 feet).

i) **Gas transmission lines:** A 20-inch diameter, 14km length gas pipeline conveying 17.5MMscfd of natural gas for the gas turbines.

j) **Waste disposal facilities:** Approximately 25 MGD of wastewater is disposed off (i.e., more than 38 million m³/year) into the sea.

k) Furthermore, the liquid effluents from the desalination plant will exceed, the limitations of NEQS Rules 2001 in at least areas:

(i) The sea-water temperature increase will be 15°C, whereas the regulations limit the increase to less than or equal to 3°C.

(ii) The chloride concentration has to be at or below sea concentration: the brine discharge increases the concentration of chlorides by 150% - 200%.

The decision of the SEPA in approving the Project on the basis of an IEE instead of an EIA is in violation of Article 9 of the Constitution and is illegal ultra vires and void.

That the PEPA and SEPA by 'refusing to convene the public meeting failed to take into account Shehri's right right under the rules of Natural Justice.

The project needs to be reevaluated in terms of the serious environmental concerns it raises and the fear that it may set a bad precedent that may be followed. □

| Date | Event |
|----------------|---|
| 17 - 11 - 2004 | NEPRA invites participation in public hearings for the grant of a generation license to DCL |
| 24 - 11 - 2004 | NEPRA invites participation in public hearings for the determination of DCL's electricity sale tariff to KESC |
| 29 - 11 - 2004 | Shehri writes to NEPRA, stressing the rationale and importance of an EIA approval from SEPA for the DCLK project Shehri writes to SEPA, giving the reasons for an EIA approval on the DCL project |
| 29 - 11 - 2004 | Through the press, SEPA invites public comments on DCL's E/A. The hearing date is fixed as the 20-01-2005. |
| 19 - 12 - 2004 | 20-01-2005 is declared a public holiday on account of Eid. On enquiry, Naim Mughal of SEPA, informs Shehri that new hearing date will be fixed for sometime in February 2005 |
| 19 - 01 - 2005 | Shehri writes to SEPA asking about new hearing date. This is followed up with a number of attempts to contact Naim Mughal on the telephone |
| 31 - 01 - 2005 | Shehri faxes a reminder to SEPA, and then talks to Naim |
| 12 - 03 - 2005 | Mughal on the phone. Shehri is informed that an IEE has been approved, and a copy will be sent to Shehri |
| 14 - 03 - 2005 | A copy of the IEE is received by Shehri |
| - 04 - 2005 | Shehri's advocate sends a legal notice to SEPA and DCL |
| - 04 - 2005 | Shehri files a writ petition in the Sindh High Court |



Activist's Toolkit

by

Khatib Ahmed



How to participate in a Public Hearing

Public hearing is an Important event as it provides the only opportunity for the people to raise their concerns about the proposed project. Therefore one **MUST** attend the Public Hearing.

1. Keep a check on newspapers for a notice about Public Hearing to be held for any project proposed in one's area.
2. Check whether the venue of the Public Hearing is close to the effected communities.
3. Check if the mandatory number of days have been given between the date of the notice and the public hearing.
4. If the above conditions are not fulfilled write to the concerned authority for relief.
5. Keep a copy of press cutting where the notice for the Public Hearing is given.
6. Try to inform as many people / stakeholders as possible about the project and the Public Hearing to be held.
7. Give a written application to the concerned persons / authority requesting for a copy of the Executive Summary and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report and / or Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) report. Get an acknowledgement receipt for this application.

Get a copy of the Summary and EIA and/or IEE documents from the relevant authority **IN ADVANCE**. Use the information in these reports to mobilize people/stakeholders. This document will also help in being better prepared to attend the Public Hearing.

One can propose to the Chairman, through a signature campaign, the names of three members of the community to be nominated on the panel. Encourage responsible persons to volunteer for this purpose.

Get in touch with sister organizations working on local/provincial/national level on environment and social issues to review the EIA and to participate.

Try to get some information on social, economical, environmental and health impacts on people living in an area where a similar project have already been established.

Prepare a written statement with your concerns and suggestions about the proposed project and submit it to the chairman/secretary.

Appoint a person within the community to do the following:-

- * To record the proceedings (minutes) of the public hearing.
- * Names and designations of the people in panel.
- * Collect a copy of all the written submissions by the people/participants.
- * Keep a record of the number of people who attended the hearing.
- * Ensure that the panel is as per the notification and if it is not then raise an objection to the chairperson of the panel. If this is not resolved then give a written submission objecting to the composition of the panel.
- * After the public hearing submit a copy of the proceedings (minutes) recorded by the people to the chairperson of the panel obtaining a receipt.
- * Get a copy of the official minutes of the public hearing. Please note this is very important so insist and try your very best to obtain the official minutes. Insist that unless the official minutes are made public then the public hearing will not be considered to be complete.
- * Keep a signed copy of all submissions to the panel.

Try to involve the media in all these activities.

Ensure the final report/minutes in which the following is done:-

1. The findings to the EIA and/or IEE and the submission made by stakeholders.
2. Identification of the problems to be raised by the project.
3. Ways and means found to solve these problems.
4. How the positive aspects can be enhanced. ☐

For further assistance please contact Shehri
Email: shehri@cyber.net.pk



URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Planning without caring

Shehri profiles two separate planned development project of Karachi that are raising concerns of adverse environmental and social impacts and lack public legitimacy

The Defence Housing Authority's (DHA) Beach Development Project

Following are discussed some relevant issues of concern regarding the project:

Legal Aspects

The Doctrine of Public Trust

The public trust doctrine principle guarantees public access to beaches even if they are privately owned. It holds that water and the sea shore belong to the people who have the unquestionable right to access and use for traditional purposes including fishing, swimming and recreation. Pakistani courts have dealt with the doctrine of public trust. It is well settled that natural resource like air, sea, water and forests are like public trust.

The DHA project is a clear violation of the doctrine of public trust principle. By building commercial complexes, monumental towers, amphitheatres, amusement parks, food courts, expo complexes, residential and hotels facilities, motels and residences, all for "aristocratic living" bang on the water front, the beach is being denied access to the public.

Environmental Laws

The project is in violation of Section 12 of the Environmental Protection Act 1997 and also in violation of Section 4 of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency

Regulations 2000. The project must have an environmental assessment under the laws as the beaches are also included as sensitive areas.

Constitutional Safeguards

In its recent judgements the Supreme Court of Pakistan has interpreted Article 9 of the Constitution, that is the right to life in a positive manner. It enjoins on the state to take positive steps to promote the quality of life of all its citizens.

The DHA project only promotes the well being of those who can use and afford the facilities it is offering.

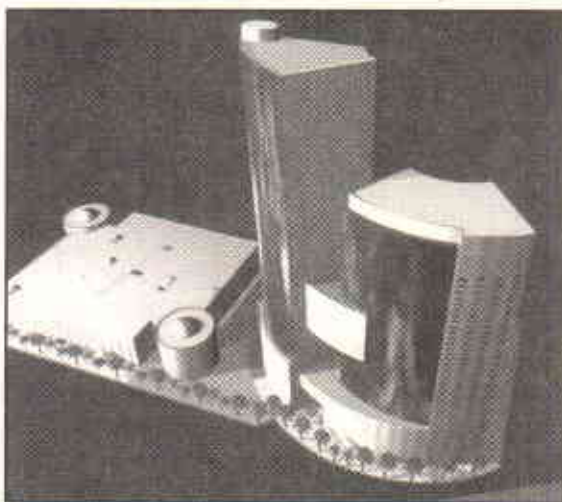
Authority of the DHA

The authority of the DHA is to be questioned to give away land held in public trust. The stretch of 14 kms falls within the jurisdiction limits of KPT or PQA.

Environmental Issues

Sewage and Waste Water

The DHA is already discharging sewage into Clifton Bay. It is also incapable of managing the solid waste issue along the beach. Its proposed development is going to add enormously to both the sewage and solid waste management issues. This



has already affected marine life adversely.

Bio-diversity and the Natural Environment

To preserve bio-diversity and the natural environment development between the coastal road and the beach is not undertaken anywhere in the world except in isolated locations. It is because of this concern that the Coastal Management Plan for Karachi, which was part of the Karachi Development Plan 2000, advocated that no development should take place between the coastal roads and the Karachi beaches. The DHA is already violating this provision.

After the DHA project is implemented the people of Karachi will not only be unable to access the beach in its natural condition, but will no longer be able to see the wild life which visits the beaches during the winter season.



Socio-Economic Issues

Fishing Communities

Since times immemorial the residents of Ibrahim Haideri, Akbar Shah Goth, Goth Haji Azia, Chashma Goth, Rehri Goth, Juma Goth and other settlements have fished in Clifton Bay. They still do. The denying of the shore to them and the affect on marine life will deprive them of their income and livelihoods.

Poor and Lower Middle Income Communities

By driving away hawkers, jugglers, performers from the stretch between

McDoland and the village and replacing them by expensive food outlets, the DHA has already driven away the poor and lower middle class visitors to the Beach.

It is obvious that after the concretisation of the Beach with facilities for high income residents, the Beach will no longer be available to the poor and lower middle income groups.

Plot/House Owners Along the Beach

People owning plots and houses along the beach will longer be able to view the sea. They purchased these plots for the specific purpose of

being able to view the sea.

Ecological Aspects

Karachi has had a number of cyclones in the past centuries, especially between 1920 and 1932. In 1985 a cyclone bypassed Karachi causing large scale destruction and inundation of areas in the west adjacent to Karachi. A description of the 1902 cyclone is given in the Sindh Gazetteer 1906 and describes how the entire coastal regions and cities itself was flooded due to enormous waves from the sea.□

Karachi Elevated Expressway Project

(On the request of Shehri and on behalf of Shehri the following Observations/Comments were prepared with reference to DCO, CDGK Paper dated August 23, 2006, by Razzaq Loya of Loya Associates, Consulting Engineers):

Objectives of the Project:

The Working Paper (WP) mentions that the proposed Expressway is for the convenience of Port -to- Port Traffic. (Keamari to Port Qasim). This objective needs reconsideration or reworded for clarity of the purpose of this seemingly VIP Expressway. Up country traffic from Keamari Port is already planned to use a direct Bypass now being completed at several billion Rupees cost by National Highway Authority (NHA). These Highway links are known as Northern Bypass and Lyari Expressway.

These specially constructed loops will funnel in and out the port (Keamari) bound from Super

Highway Toll Plaza and will also serve Hub Industrial Area thus smoothly circumventing the City along its northern fringes. Reduction of pollution in the City will of course be a pay off.

The traffic to and from Port Qasim seldom ventures to enter the mob of City traffic snarls. Most of them use old Thatta National Highway (N-5) which merges in to Super highway by a E-W Link Road a few miles north of Port Qasim. N-5 and Link Road are presently undergoing major widening and improvement on fast track basis by NHA.

In fact it will be more realistic to observe that heavy loaded trucks at present are not allowed to use Club Road, Metropole Hotel to Karsaz Cross on Sharae Faisal except for some special trucks bearing special number plates or some heavy trucks exchanging smiles with traffic police for on-the-spot special permissions.

It is admittedly a commendable proposition that any extra route over, parallel or under an existing congested route does offer time saving, pol-

lution mitigation and vehicle operating cost benefits. Nevertheless, the emphasis on the benefits to the Port truckers and resulting reduction in pollution stated in the WP needs a little dilution.

The Route Plan shown on WP leads the observer to detect some different purpose than professed for the proposed Express Way. It appears to that a controlled access Express Way is planned for the prime purpose of the fast movement of the dignitaries whom our City Fathers and Administration take great care to pamper with our traditional hospitality.

Entry/Exit and En-Route Locations:

The points of EXITS and ENTRY appear a little incongruous in as much as they are not in conformity with the silky route intended for the elites who are known for their haste and comfort.

Mai Kolachi Intersection indicates "Exit Only" This is a major intersection will require easy "Entry" bring-



ing trucks from Shirin Jinnah/Keamari Oil Depots. Denying these massive trailers the "Entry" may diminish the purpose of "Port-to-Port Traffic".

The approach up ramp for the new 2nd tier of the Proposed Elevated structure over the existing Railway Bridge will require nearly 900m length from Mai Kolachi side. Is the road wide enough near Habib Public School to accommodate service roads and two tier roadways and handle school traffic?

From Habib Public School, the Expressway Climbs up and traverses over the existing Club Road towards Metropole Hotel. At Metropole Hotel it encounters a two lane "Entry Ramps"-justificably so for the cars of notables in the neighborhoods to hurriedly get on to the fast tracks. Surrounded by Sindh Club, Old PM House Boundary Walls and massive Metropole Building, would this intersection get the Entry approach ramp spaces, especially the elbow room required for their loops to enter the main Expressway?

Which way the entries will be set on busy Clifton Road (M.T. Khan) and Club Road? Without "Exit" at such busy intersection would not the planners of the proposed Expressway reallocate the jams to some another less fortunate intersections in the vicinity?

The approach ramp of Main Route of Expressway will rise further up from Bawani School to cross over the Flyover near the Cemetery.

Provisions "Exit Only" is shown at FTC Intersection. Direction or location of the "Exit" is not indicated. This intersection point carries some sensitive implication and objections to further encroachment because of the Easement Right for peace and sanctity of the Cemetery on one side and FTC's written objections in the past to creep towards its Property Line on the other side.

Management of both these facilities needs to be provided prior information before planning any additional Structures in these locations and their consent or objection should be sought before hand.

On the Shaheed-e-Millat Road Intersections only EXITS are shown. This junction is fed by heavy traffic from Korangi Road and Jail Chaurangi as well as city traffic bound to the junction. With completion of Hino Chawk Flyover Intersection shortly on DHA/Korangi Road, a flood of traffic will be pushed from DHA and Korangi Industrial Area towards Shaheed-e-Millat crossing. Without "Entry" point to the Proposed Qaidabad/Port Qasim fast route, there is likely to be an intractable chaos at this junction.

From the Plan it appears that no intersection is provided for "Exit" or "Entry" at Rashid Minhas Road junction. This portrays an unfortunate view of the planners by depriving the convenience or benefits of the Expressway to nearly 75% population of this Mega City living in Gulshane Iqbal, Gulistane Johar, Nazimabad, FB Area... and... one can fill a mile long list of localities of

millions who are also called Karachites..

The Jinnah Terminal appears to be the prime starting and end points of the Proposed Expressway. Only inconsistency seems that the line Plan shows only "EXIT" and the Expressway proceeds further as if this lofty Dragon is undaunted to consider allowing in its fold the Commoners or Mighties disembarking from Airport by providing some kind of ENTRY". Or is the reader of the WP interpreting the Line Plan nomenclatures incorrectly? Further than this, lesser said the better about this "Vital" Intersection.

The 2nd Tier Bridge Over Malir River would be required to be over-passed by the Proposed Expressway by creating a second tier over it. Both sides of the approach ramps of this bridge are already heavily built up by housings. There is hardly a space to place a parallel bridge because of absence of space for the approach ramps. The foundation pile caps of existing bridge are 18.0m across at some pier foundations. Heavy scour over the past 42 years have punished the piles mercilessly some time exposing them by 4.5 m.

The foundation maintenance of this bridge had been scary for the engineers before NHA took over. I am sure Designers of the proposed Elevated Expressway would consider this sticky bottleneck with the spirit of "Transfer of Technology" to benefit our Country's engineering know-how by their's!

The Qaidabad Intersection is an under construction Interchange at Qaidabad. A Railway bridge linking National Highway (N-5) and Landhi Mills Area was constructed nearly more than a decade back. The approach ramp towards National Highway had to be provided with an



excessive steep gradient (considering Overloaded trucks traffic in Pakistan) of about 5.5% because of short length available to reach the intersection with N-5. This steep gradient has been the source of nightmare and unending criticism by the truckers who carry with total impunity almost twice the legal axle loads on Pakistan's road network all over the country.

Does the Elevated Expressway end at Qaidabad Intersection? Has environmental and encroachment study for population replacement been done by the planners at this critical junction, where traffic back up is half an hour wait period?

WP describes single column for 4 or 6 lane pavement widths. Would a single column module be applicable when the Expressway rises over the existing flyovers enroute? Has urban aesthetic been considered for this lofty monument snaking through the City's thoroughfare? CDGK will be well advised to avail service of some reputable architects so that the Expressway may enhance the beauty of the City. 200m module of horizontal structure to minimize the expansion joints may have another pay off for the City.

Surely the designer must be using flared Box Girders in the superstructure for economy and robust expression of structure with architecturally pleasant façade. Seismic restraints proposed in the WP is not clear and calls for further details.

The structural design of BOT needs to be vetted by CDGK by engaging

Local Bridge Designers having proven experience in this Field.

The Concession period of 17 years from the Government (after deducting 3 years Construction Period) appears too short. Needless to mention that shorter the Land and Toll Concession Period in a BOT Project, larger the amounts the toll.

Government needs to carry out Value Engineering and Feasibility Study before venturing on such major undertaking We are confident that CDGK has subjected this Project to such Financial Wind Tunnel Test already, and considered the social impact on the budget of the prospective common users of this seemingly VIP Expressway.

During the construction of this expressway, (optimistically for 3 years- we consider it as a tall order, please consider havoc of 3 future monsoons) will turn the City's main thoroughfares in to muck and the debris giving birth to increasing public discontent. The City traffic for the last 4 years has been treated ruthlessly like herds of mute lambs by City Fathers. "Dig, Karachi Dig !" "Swim off, Karachi Swim Off !" syndrome has turned many citizens in to kind of manic Psychics.

Govt. plans and pays the contractor for alternate traffic management and construction of detours at construction sites, as required by Traffic Engineering Bureau of CDGK (formerly KDA).

This chunk of cost is apparently limited to Measurements Books only.

Contractors never care for the convenience of the traffic during construction. Deep Craters, absence of lights at night, absence of Road detour direction signs hazard signs or lights have taken many valuable lives in the past 3 years. One does not have to do a research to find on whom the onus of these tragedies lie.

Proposed Elevated Expressway construction in all probabilities will be constructed by the Foreign Firm named in the WP. Known for its soaring high-rise buildings and elevated Expressways, that great nation is also known for lack-of-elbow-space and notorious traffic snarls in her main Cities.

We Karachites expect that the Planners and Designers are well aware of the situation of disregard to our traffic laws and sorry state of culture of the traffic in this city. While reading the WP, the engineers in Karachi would feel that as cost saving measure the BOT Company will be promptly tempted to sub-let the work pieces to the local contractors whose regard to their calls conscience to provide easy access to the traffic and install safety precautions at night has been totally eroded.

We suspect that Expressway construction will turn the City's thoroughfare in to 23 mile long grave of excavations, muck and heaps of construction materials.

In conclusion Shehri urges CDGK to first get the Plans of Construction of Safety and Alternate Detour of Traffic to be FIRST approved and most important - Please have those life saving measures implement on ground during construction! □



COMMUNITY POLICING

Police and community, allies for change: Best practices and initiatives in South Asia

Rozan, an Islamabad based non-profit organization that is actively working on social issues, in this paper highlights the initiatives taken in the South Asian Region to improve the image and performance of the police departments.

Easy access to justice has always been deemed a basic value of a just society and one cannot have two opinions about the fact that alongside the judiciary, the role of police to achieve and hold this value, if not more than is equally important. As enforcers of the law, the police are commonly seen as the trusted embodiment of law, meant to protect the innocent, find the guilty, bring them to trial, and promote the means and ends of justice. They are expected to act righteously and rigorously in defense of the rule of law and adhere to it letter and spirit!

Has the prevailing police system been able to respond to these expectations specifically in the context of South Asian countries? Sadly the answer would be in negative. One of the many reasons behind the prevailing situation has been the Police Acts/Ordinances which are being enacted in some of the South Asian countries for the last more than one hundred and forty years.

The overriding consideration before those who designed the police organization in 1861 was to make it a public-frightening organization, not a public-friendly agency. The purpose of police in the past has been to secure the inter-

ests of the regime in power, control the masses and not be approachable to the community.

There has been a scarcity of avenues where both police and community sit together in a non-threatening environment to listen and understand each other problems, needs and limitations.

Though there is not a single definition that could encompass the whole concept of police- community cooperation but generally it focuses on crime and social disorder

through the delivery of police services that includes aspects of traditional law enforcement, as well as prevention, problem-solving, community engagement, and partnerships

been a distinct shift in the understanding and orientation of an effective police system. Though there is not a single definition that could encompass the whole concept of police- community cooperation but generally it focuses on crime and social disorder through the delivery of police services that includes aspects of traditional law enforcement, as well as prevention, problem-solving, community engagement, and partnerships.

This sort of regime policing in South Asia over the years have been widening the gulf between Police and the community, transforming them into each others; foes, instead of allies.

In the past decade a dire need has been felt both at the level of policy makers and the community in South Asia for bringing about constructive reforms within the police system to make it more service oriented and people friendly. There has

The community policing model balances reactive responses to calls for service with proactive problem solving centered on the causes of crime and disorder. Community policing requires police and citizens to join together as partners in the course of both identifying and effectively addressing these issues". The local context i.e. laws and the socio-cultural and religious practices play a significant role in the process of community policing.

It is important to acknowledge here that minimizing the public- police divide is an incremental and long term process as more than a century old mind set is not easy to change. This shift in perception of an ideal police system to be truly transformative and impact the ground reality for the common person requires considerable honest self reflection and commitment and most of all a will at the level of the institution, policies, systems and of course the individual policeman and woman.

Policing in the 21st century has its own challenges, difficulties and demands. The present day police woman/man is over-worked, under-paid, unappreciated by the community, feels alienated from his/her family and often has to work under conditions where his/her life is under threat. As a result, often the police force does not carry the respect and confidence of the very people and society it polices. This directly impacts the police's level of self-respect, self-confidence, collective self-esteem and efficiency, which in turn affects its performance.



The Government of Pakistan promulgated the Police Order 2002 in place of Police Act 1861. Though its implementation has been a challenge for the last four years and there have also been amendments in it over this period but still it is an valuable initiative by the government to start the journey for reforms in the police system in Pakistan.

One of the key aspects of the Police Order 2002 is to improve the tarnished image of police to make it more people friendly and service orientated. In this regard the formulation of Public Safety and Police Complaints Commission at National, Provincial and District level is a way to move forward.

In other South Asian Countries initiatives are also being taken in this regard. In case of India the National Police Commission (1977-1981) in its reports made several recommendations regarding police welfare, training of police, police- public relations, replacement of Police Act 1861, and establishing Security Commissions.

In September 2005 the Government of India established a Police Act Drafting Committee (PADC) with a mandate to draft a new Police Act to meet the challenge of the "growth and spread of insurgency/militancy/naxalism and to bring an attitudinal change in the police including its working methodology, to elicit cooperation of the community and to meet expectations from the police in a modern, democratic society.

According to Mr. A.S. Shahjahan, "in Bangladesh since 1971, more than six committees and commissions were formed to diagnose and treat the country's ailing police system, but there was little active follow-through. In his

opinion "indifference, vested interests, and scarce resources were at the root of ignoring the reform agenda when it came to turning the ideas into concrete action".

In January 2005, a program, Strengthening Bangladesh Police was launched aiming at better human resource management, introducing better merit-based recruitment, institutionalizing training and evaluation, and increasing female recruits.

The police has been promoting the "community policing" system in Nepal since 1995, with the aim of increasing community participation in crime prevention. Activities include setting up a community committee, school programmes and working with NGOs.

The government of Sri Lanka established The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka and the National Police Commission (NPC) in 1997 and 2002 respectively. The NPC has established a procedure for entertaining, investigating and redressing complaints against police personnel and the police service.

Alongside the government initiatives many civil society organizations in South Asia have also been active to address the issue of police reforms. They have played an effective role in forming community- police liaison, committees in some of the metropolitans, mobilizing resources for the police to provide equipment and infrastructure and running campaigns to improve the positive image of police in media.

One of special challenges in this regard has been sensitization of police on key societal issues such as human rights abuses, gender discrimination, violence against and children. In fact,

the police's behaviour, stemming from deeply held attitudes, often directly influences and even determines the fate of the marginalized and disadvantaged groups (women, children, minorities,) of the society.

It therefore, has been felt essential that the members of this force have a sound knowledge and understanding of the dynamics and causes of these issues, socio-political institutions, frameworks and paradigms, such as legal systems, international perspectives on human rights, within which all people exist.

Police department itself in some of the South Asian countries has taken community policing initiatives like introducing rescue units, emergency services, safe home schemes and awareness raising campaigns regarding traffic rules in the local communities.

Rozan is an Islamabad based non - government and non- profit organization working on issues of emotional and mental health, gender and violence against women, children and the youth. Rozan is one of the few organizations in Pakistan addressing the issues of emotional health. One of its programs is Rabta Police training Program. This program has been working with the police system in Pakistan for the last seven years on issues of gender, violence against women and children. One of its major achievements is institutionalization of attitudinal change module in police training curriculum.

In response to the growing focus at the regional level for undertaking serious endeavors to facilitate police - community liaison, Rozan is hosting a 2 day South Asian Regional Conference in February 2007. □

- Courtesy: Rozan, Islamabad



City govt considers increase in rates for commercialised roads

Daily Times 12 December, 2006
The CDGK is considering an increase in rates for Change of Land Use on 21 commercialized roads of the city. This was decided in a meeting chaired by City Nazim Mustafa Kamal Monday.

In the meeting, EDO Master Pahn Iftikhar Qiamkhani city council had commercialized 21 roads through a resolution some three years ago. The city council had also approved that the owners of land on these 21 commercialized roads could change the status of their residential plots after paying a certain fees to the city government.

Businessmen demand land control under city nazim

The Nation December 12, 2006
Renowned businessmen, industrialists and philanthropists of metropolis has lauded the City Nazim's one year performance and demanded through are solution to hand over 100 percent land control to the city government to resolve citizens problems without any demand.

This was stated by renowned industrialist Main Zahid Hussain patron All Pakistan Lubricants Manufacturers Association, while addressing a reception hosted in honour of city Nazim Syed Mustafa Kamal after completing one-year.

City government sets up municipal services office

Daily DAWN Dec, 12, 2006

An independent department - Municipal Services Group of Offices - to handle solid waste, fumigation, fire brigade and others tasks has been established in the Deity District Government Karachi (CDGK) by the Sindh government.

A summary to set up the Municipal Services Group of Offices was sent to Sindh chief minister Arbab Ghulam Rahim, who approved

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.

CONVERSION MOST ILLEGAL!

Commercialization of Plot No. F-96, Block-7,
Clifton, Khyaban-e-Roomi

The residents of Block-7, Clifton Karachi, object to the commercialization

of subject plot on the following grounds.

1. The plot faces a service road, which is less than 15ft, wide.

This service road is constantly dug to the sewerage nala passing in front of this plot.

2. The Construction will trespass upon the privacy and security of the Jamat Khana ST-4 and in the prevailing environment of intol-

erance, it would be better not to expose communities to danger.

3. The privacy, easement and purda of the plots behind this will be disturbed and it would be better if the plans are shown to the residents before any final decision.

4. Under the Freedom of Information Ordinance 2006, we expect all plans and decisions are made public project and not a private one. □

- Residents of Block-7,
Clifton, Karachi

INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

A vision for reforming the KW&SB

The KW&SB management under the dynamic leadership of Brig. Iftikhar Haider, has prepared a vision for bringing about the much needed institutional reforms in the KW&SB.

KWSB is an operations organization responsible to provide potable water and sewerage services to a population of over 15 million. The functions performed by KWSB are close to every citizen. The quality of service rendered by KWSB has a direct impact upon the life of citizens. There is an overall understanding that the water and sewerage services in Karachi are not up to the standard. The organization presently is doing fire fighting rather than service delivery. Huge financial liability due to exorbitant energy costs, debt retirement and costs of O&M has made KWSB bankrupt.

KWSB considers provision of water and sewerage service as the social responsibility of the government. To accomplish this responsibility KWSB would retain the ownership and functionality of all the infrastructure facilities of water and sewerage services. Privatization is not an option. To improve the service delivery, response to the consumers and sustainability; institutional and financial reforms in KWSB is must.

KW&SB's internal desire to reform has been demonstrated in the recent wide-ranging structural and operational changes both in the field of service delivery and revenue management. The on-going efforts of reforms are positive steps in the right direction but have to go a long way so that the desired standards can be met. KWSB alone does not have the ability to bring institutional and financial reforms on a lasting basis. It needs support of the

Government.

The silver lining in the process is the commitment of Present Elected Leadership to settle the Water and Sewerage problems for ensuring a better life in Karachi. The political leadership and the Government have recently shown their interest to bring institutional reforms for improved service delivery. This is the best opportunity and right time to implement the reforms. Commitment is there, but it needs focus and persuasion.

The institutional and financial reform should lead to restructuring of KWSB on professional and commercial principles for improved service delivery and to transform the organization into a sustainable institution. The guiding principle for reform is the need for clear separation of roles between the policy makers(s), regulation and service provider. KWSB needs to be reformed into KWSS (Karachi Water and Sewerage Services), which should function in a business like environment on no loss basis.

The major issues confronting the department which are retarding the output are given in the attaché chart. These key issues need to be addressed in totality for meaningful reforms to inculcate efficient culture in KWSB.

It has also been realized that in the reform processes, overall sectoral reforms will have to be sought, having a focus on KWSB being the single largest public service agency in

the water and sewerage sector in Karachi. Without a viable governance framework that identifies the appropriate roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders in policy making, service or internal management changes cannot be secured. The process is aimed at reforming the department with clearly identified and sorted out aspects of governance, ownership, legislations, plans for financial recovery, means for community participation and culture for bettering consumer relations and service orientation.

The present process of structural changes for improved service delivery would continue to proceed, however, for a wholesome approach on long lasting basis it would require related comprehensive details studies and formation of the following committees, duly notified by the Government.

Reform Committee

* The Reform Committee headed by the Managing Director to comprise of progressive professionals with varied experience to be formed.

* The committee to design the reform.

The reform committee while designing the reforms would take cognizance of the following:-

* Address on priority the key issues as given in the attached chart.

* The structural changes made so far to continue without any



major set backs changes so as to continue with the process of improved service delivery.

- * The Government of Sindh and CDGK to facilitate the Reform Committee to gain technical expertise both from domestic and international institutions/bodies to design the reform.
- * The reforms designed by the Reform Committee to be placed before the Steering Committee for approval.
- * The Reform Committee after seeking approval would ensure and pursue the implantation of reforms in KWSB.

Steering committee

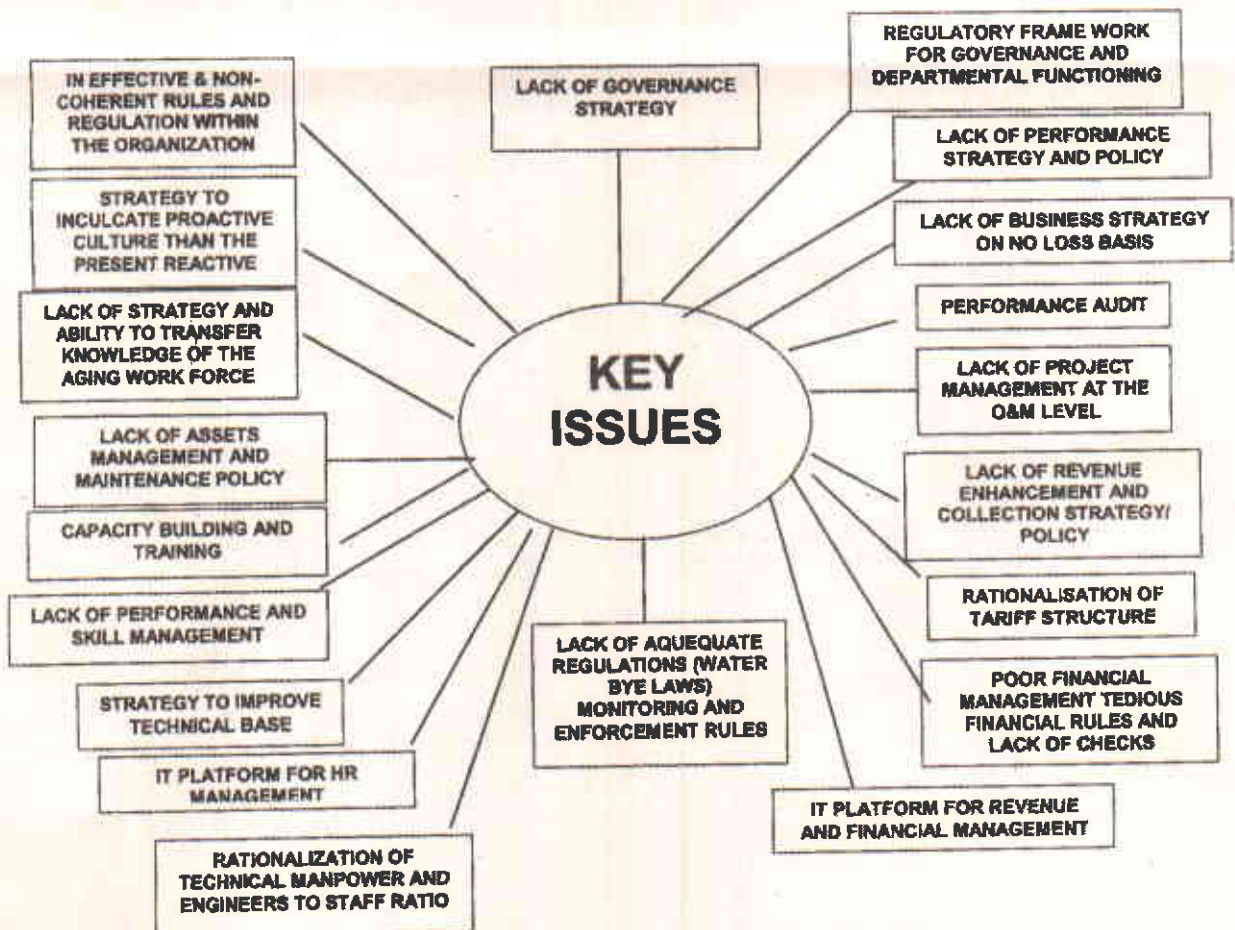
- * The Steering Committee headed by the City Nazim comprising of public representative, civil society representatives, government functionaries both of CDGK and GOS and stakeholders to be formed.
- * The committee would provide the critical platform for facilitating discussion, debate and consensus for strengthening, sustainability and credibility of the process.
- * The committee would serve as the main decision making body on the reform proposed by the Reform Committee

- * The committee would oversee and ensure implementation of reforms in KWSB.

Conclusion:

It is imperative that all the stakeholders to grab the present opportunity to bring decent change in the service delivery of KWSB by bringing institutional reform prior to undertaking major infrastructure development investment. We need to **FIX THE INSTITUTION FIRST THAN THE PIPES.** □

KEY ISSUES RETARDING THE OUTPUT OF KW&SB





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 is the 'Kiosk Billing System', that KW&SB has introduced?

Saqib Majeed, North Nazimabad, Karachi

A. KW&SB in collaboration with NADRA have introduced a 'Kiosk Billing System', where bills can be submitted by credit cards and an information based system. One such Kiosk is operative at the Consumer Services Centre (KW&SB Head Office) While 70 more hours plan to be installed all across the city soon.

Q. What is the area of Karachi District?

Sara Bashir, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Karachi

A. 2600 sq. km.

Q. What is the length of Karachi's coastline?

Izhar Mirza, Bahadurabad, Karachi

A. 990 km

**Shehri
needs volunteers
be an
environmental activist
work with an
experienced team**

Shehri Committees

Legal

Media & Outreach

Anti-Pollution

Parks & Recreation

Gun Free Society

Conservation & Heritage

Fund Raiser

JOIN SHEHRI

To Create a Better Environment

If you wish to join
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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. 1000/- (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 2007! (Rs. 1000)
Join Shehri and do your bit as a
good citizen to make this city a
clean, healthy and environmentally
friendly place to live in!

SPORT FISHING

Salt water sport fishing: the experience of the Karachi coast

Shehri, highlights an exciting and informative 'Guide Book', to salt water fishing, penned by its member, the noted conservationist and the pioneer and leading sport fishing personality in Pakistan - Syed Aziz Agha

This is the first book on saltwater sportfishing in Pakistan and is meant to serve as a guide for existing and potential anglers about the large variety of gamefish found off the coast of Sindh and Balochistan. It informs that Pakistan's 1200 km coastline boasts some of the most prized gamefish sought after by anglers who are willing to travel to remotest parts of the world to catch prized fish species like marlins (blue, black, striped), sailfish, yellowfin tuna, big tiger and mako sharks alongwith giant mackerel, cobia, mahimahi, wahoo, barracuda, queenfish, giant trevally, threadfin and barramundi.



The author (in the centre) with the catch!

in USA, Hawaii, Grand Caymen, Australia, Mauritius, etc, which offer prize money of US Dollar One Million and more to attract serious sea going anglers.

Pakistan's untapped potential

Pakistan's total tourist arrivals in 2004 was 648,000 persons (this includes Pakistanis who have taken foreign nationalities and were visiting their home country). Total foreign exchange earnings during that year was US \$ 185.60 million. This is an insignificant amount compared to tourism related earnings of about US Dollars 10 / 15 billion, which some of the leading tourist destinations earn each year (China, Italy, Spain, France, India, Malaysia, etc). Pakistan can improve its foreign exchange earnings substantially by developing saltwater sportfishing virgin tourist industry and attracting anglers from the world over. Pakistan already boasts of 2 world records in saltwater angling and has a trickling of saltwater angling tourists (mostly Europeans) coming to Karachi, which have been given a proper section in the book.

Services to be offered to promote saltwater sport-fishing

Once the infrastructure is in place, Agha's Sportfishing and other promoters could organize big fishing tournaments for local and foreign anglers, offering large prize money (from sponsors who are currently sponsoring other outdoor sporting activities such as cricket, hockey, tennis, car-racing, etc.). Another big money earner could be offshore fishing charters for gamefish as offered by charter operators abroad. It could range from half day, full day and overnight, to suit the angler's budget.

Urgent need to conserve marine eco-system

The book highlights the need to conserve the marine environment and pin-points many serious issues of our marine habitat and ecology. Illegal fish netting should be stopped. Wanton untreated marine pollution, over-fishing inshore, cutting down of mangroves and reclamation of wetlands must be put on check as they are devastating our untapped marine resources, some of which may soon

In order to develop Pakistan as a major saltwater fishing destination, it is essential to develop basic infrastructure at / near Karachi, to attract potential tourists from all over the globe. The infrastructure will consist of piers, jetties, boat maintenance yards and 5 star hotel accommodation , which Karachi city has in fair abundance. Mubarrak village (about 40 km from Karachi) has the basic potential for being developed into a deep sea fishing and marine recreational centre.

Global Perspective

Saltwater sportfishing is an established revenue generating industry the world over, with US citizens spending US\$ 116 billion on sportfishing, with US\$ 25 billion on saltwater angling alone. The US has 60 million anglers and one in six persons in the USA in an angler. Australia has 10 million anglers and South Africa has around 40,000 offshore anglers. Major international fishing tournaments are held



become extinct. The free use of local illegal Kutra, Bola and Gujja nets, which are banned by law, creates an imbalance in the marine food chain. If not stopped immediately (on a war footing) it will eventually destroy the marine eco-system and the coming generations will be deprived of a healthy outdoor sport and recreational activity.

Hall of fame

The two world record holders in saltwater fishing from Pakistan are highlighted. Then there is a list of local fishing record holders alongwith their photo gallery, it depicts the who's who of sea angling in Pakistan. The book talks about the local fishing heavyweight anglers of marlin and tuna fishing in the country.

Tips for anglers

The book attempts to highlight the practical aspects of saltwater angling. The tips for the readers include, fish identification names and charts, tackle, method, technique, to the what, when, where and how of finding fish in our sea. It tells us how to read the tides and currents, water temperature, movements of sea birds, how to keep catch fresh, it gives a good guideline to safety at sea and the do's and don'ts to venturing offshore. Also what to take on a fishing expedition. It carries other valuable tips on sea sickness, global positioning system. A marine map of Pakistan's coastline alongwith a local marine bulletin and a marine glossary are included.

For the lovers of the marine environment and first-timers, it has information of the fish delicacies, type of local fish that are good eating. It carries information on fishing with the family and some fishing knowledge for children, plus some humor thrown-in. A question and answer section on fishing is added to test the angler's IQ .

About Agha's Sportfishing and the Author

Agha's Sportfishing (the headquarters of saltwater sportfishing in Pakistan) was established in 1985 in Karachi, with the prime purpose of promoting sea fishing in the country. It organizes offshore sportfishing tournaments, provides fishing guide service, sells charters and takes out fishing publications that also highlight the marine environment.

The organization's mission statement reads thus "Agha's Sportfishing's objectives are founded on the belief that the entire marine environment alongwith its wealth, that is its habitants, gamefish species and related food chain are economic, social, recreational and aesthetic assets, which must be conserved, protected, promoted, widely used and perpetuated. That, sportfishing is an important recreational, social and economic activity about which the public must

be educated to pursue in a manner consistent with sound sportfishing, ethical and conservation practices". The company voices environmental issues that concern the marine ecosystems and promotes a healthy recreational outdoor activity and sport .

The CEO of Agha's Sportfishing, 56 yr old Syed Aziz Agha (with three and a half decades of saltwater fishing experience behind him) is the pioneer of saltwater sportfishing in Pakistan. He founded the Kingfishers Club in 1984 and in 1999 was appointed Pakistan Representative of IGFA (The International Game Fish Association of America) - the premier most fishing body in the world.

Agha is obsessed with the sea and actively voices and fights for marine environmental causes. He holds two major local saltwater angling records, the heaviest fish caught on spinning tackle (a 77 lb giant trevally on 30 pound line in March 2000) and in December 2003, became the first Pakistani angler to land all three species of marlin (black, blue and striped) found in our waters. Was a member of the 1988 team that tagged and released the first marlin (the ultimate gamefish) in Pakistan's offshore waters.

Author's Mission

To take 'fear of the sea' out of people. To bring both young and old outdoors for healthy sport and recreation, close to Mother Nature. To understand, study and enjoy the pleasures and bounties of the marine environment and to teach the common man through fishing, to appreciate, respect, learn, preserve and protect the marine habitat and ecology, which is God's precious gift to the citizens of Pakistan.

Author's Motto

To enjoy all that Allah has made lawful and stay away from the unlawful. □



Fun for all !!!