



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

CITIZENS FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

JANUARY-JUNE 2014

GRADE SEPARATED TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN CLIFTON KARACHI

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As Karachi's skyline becomes increasingly dominated by imposing skyscrapers, caution is disregarded. In this special report, Shehri explores the legalities, environmental and cultural impacts and traffic problems of the Traffic Improvement Project implemented as a consequence of the construction of Bahria Icon Tower.

Shehri highlighted their report with the following truisms:

- The Government, including municipal agencies like KMC, have abandoned all planning in Sindh and handed over the job to commercial developers and greedy mafias.
- A senior official of the former Federal EPA once confessed that

**"EIA KA KAM HAI HARAM KO
HALAL BANANA"**

- SEPA officials have a policy of not rejecting any EIA or IEE, no matter how detrimental it is to the environment, if the right 'noises' are made. Even the illegal IEE for this project was approved within one week in March 2014!!
- Most actions by rogues in Pakistan are done "in the public interest" or "in the supreme national interest". Perhaps that is why Pakistan is sinking.



The 68-storey Bahria Icon Tower Project at old Clifton is simply not viable. Without recklessly modifying the public road network around the gigantic, three million square foot venture which is unlawfully occupying part of the Bagh-e-Ibn-e-Qasim Park to construct concrete traffic loops and a five-acre, three-level, 2500-car-cub-terranean parking structure (connected to the plaza), the Bahria Icon Tower is unrealistic and impractical.

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*Editorial***BEACH TRAGEDY**

The population of Pakistan is notorious for disregarding rules and regulations imposed for its own safety as much as official institutions are infamous for blatantly bypassing safety regulations when undertaking big projects. A precedence of the two working together was when over forty people drowned at sea view beach over the Eid holidays towards the end of July. The sea was very rough at that time of the year but that did not prevent people from swimming deep into it even when warned by the life guards present against doing so. Also, the new off-shore port terminal being constructed and the copious amounts of sand being excavated from the sea bed for it tampered with the dynamics of the waves, sweeping people away towards the construction sites. Sea view beach's scant lifeguards were unable to take any effective actions because they were overburdened with the hordes of people over populating the beach and were ill equipped with the necessary gear to deal the numerous people drowning.

As a consequence of this, the Government of Sindh closed off the beach for future use and had a bamboo wall erected on the beach front to prevent people from entering the sea. This obviously still did not deter some foolish people from sneaking into the tempestuous sea. A repercussion of these preventative measures was that the small fishermen population of Karachi who depend on this stretch of the coast for their livelihood were cordoned off from it. They were left to starve while the government made no concessions for them. The festivities of Eid were marred by these unfortunate series of events.

First of all, no proper EIA was carried out before construction begun for the port as per law. No consideration was given to how the equilibrium of the sea would change and whether any one entering the sea near that area would be affected. Secondly, the city's poor beach safety regulations and ill equipped life guards were not a force to reckon with in the face of a chaotic sea. The Government of Sindh should have taken cautionary measures with the knowledge of the large masses that rush to the beaches every Eid. Also, once tragedy had struck, it should have assessed the situation keeping in mind future repercussions and then taken necessary measures.

General Comments on the EIA report:

The date for the Public Hearing (22nd July 2014) was scheduled only 18 days after the publication of the notice (4th July 2014). Regulation 10(3) of the Review of IEE and EIA

Regulations 2000 mandates that a public hearing can follow a notice 'not earlier than 30 days'. Thus, the hearing was consequently unlawful. Moreover, the KMC was only holding this EIA hearing because its tail had been stepped on by the Hon'ble

High Court. Every proponent prefers not to have his 'environment-friendly project subjected to the public scrutiny in a country where, according to the World Bank, the annual cost of environmental degradation exceeds 6% of the GDP.

PROTECTED HERITAGE & RECREATION SPACES:

The Sindh Cultural Heritage (Preservation) Act 1994 notified the following structures as "Protected Heritage":

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| a) Sri Ratneshwar Manadev Mandir | (reportedly 2,500 years old) |
| b) Abdullah Shah Ghazi Mazar | (reportedly 1,200 years old) |
| c) Jehangir Kothari Parade | (1920) |
| d) Bandstand/Promenade Pavilion | (1920) |
| e) Lady Lloyd Pavivion | (1921) |



The Cultural department notification under the Heritage Act 1994, No. S0-1/CYS & YAD/4-99/95 dated 15-9-97, warns that: **"Any act intentionally to destroy, remove, injure, alter and deface/imperil the Protected Heritage or to build on or near the sites will be unlawful"**. Thus, not only are the above structures protected, but so are their environs. For example, the Presidential 'White House' in Washington DC is a protected heritage of the USA. Erection of overpasses in front or around this monument would not be allowed.

The proposed Bahria underpasses/overpasses (and

the Bahria Icon building itself) will destroy the very sanctity of the area and impoverish the heritage status of the five protected structures. The officials of the KMC and the Government of Sindh are colluding with aggressive commercial interests in the obliteration of the entire character of the heart of old Clifton.

Not only will the historic setting be ravaged, but active criminal destruction of the so-called 'Protected Heritages' has commenced at the Jehangir Kothari Parade, and the subterranean part of the Sri Ratneshwar Manadev Mandir. Moreover, the Jehangir Kothari Parade is not merely the

building in the centre but is the entire length of the promenade walk (as shown in the Google image above), which, in the 1920s, was at the edge of the sea (see Annexure- A).

Also, this so-called Protected Heritage has been viciously cut and a chunk chewed out of it by heavy machinery, in the process destroying a commemorative plaque of the Lady Lloyd Pier, and generating cracks in the nearby underground cavern of the Mandir (see Annexure- B).

The Human Right Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) and the All-Hindu Rights Organization, among others, have appealed

to the Supreme Court (see Annexures-C & -D) for help. All are concerned about damage to, and the potential collapse of, the Mandir's subterranean chamber, keeping in view the fragile geology of the area and its location at the edge of the ridge. This damage will be caused by heavy vibrations from construction-procedures and by the eventual continuous heavy traffic so close to the chamber.

An independent scrutiny body, under the Institution of Engineers of Pakistan, with geo-technical and structural engineers, is required to examine the stability of the Mandir cavern and the Jehangir Kothari Parade considering seismicity, geology and liquefaction.

Moreover, complaints and reminders sent to the Chief Secretary (see Annexure-E), Chairman of the Heritage Committee, have gone unanswered so far. No one who has been charged with upholding the law seems to be interested in protecting anything or any public property that the powerful wish to destroy!

This project admittedly (see Section 1.5 of EIA Report) **"responds to the need of the segment of population that is seeking safety, security and improvement in quality of life"**.

Is there any resident of Karachi

or citizen of Pakistan that is not "seeking safety, security and improvement in quality of life"?!! What the EIA Report actually means to say is that this project responds to the 5% rich and upper income groups at the cost of the 95% poor and lower income groups.

The common man (of the 95% poor and lower income groups) who will be adversely affected by the unnecessary under/over-passes include:

- a) Lacs of devotees/pilgrims who come from all over Sindh and Karachi to the Mazar of Shah Abdullah Ghazi.
- b) Lacs of devotees who come who come from all over Sindh and Karachi to the Sri Ratneshwar Manadev Mandir.
- c) Millions of residents of Karachi and visitors from upcountry who come to experience the pleasures of the sole low-cost, accessible recreation spot in the city: the sea-side at the Clifton beach/promenade and the historic 'Protected Heritage' structures in the immediate vicinity. Half of the beautiful open yard in front of the J. K. Parade, where visitors gather and hawkers vend, will be occupied by a noisy underpass which will destroy the atmosphere that has existed for the past century.

Also, the common man's pedestrian access (should lacs of poor and not-so-poor

people including the aged, children, infirm, disabled, etc be made to climb 20 feet high pedestrian bridges in droves while rich people's car-traffic whizzes by?) and roaming space will be restricted and made more accident-prone/hazardous by fast traffic. The spaces formerly available for stopping of public buses and other transport have been reduced to virtually zero. No calculation of this important traffic/transport count has been included in the EIA Report.

SEPA's ILLEGAL IEE NOC:

The illegal IEE NOC, No. EPA/2014/13/13/12/IEE dated 18-3-2014, (see Section 2.4 of the EIA Report) earlier issued to this project is SEPA's standard, but virtually meaningless, "do good and avoid evil" generalized instructions to a project proponent.

A careful reading of this IEE NOC shows that the same NOC, with minor changes of proponent and project names, could be issued for any road-related project in fact, for any IEE/EIA project (a study of numerous other SEPA NOCs will prove this). No 'application of mind' or analysis of the environmental issues was carried out to create a speaking order. But, then, one week is not enough time to 'apply one's mind'!

It is noteworthy(see Section 6.5 of this EIA Report) that even

the requirements of the illegal IEE NOC have been brazenly violated by KMC/Bahria during the construction stage, without SEPA taking corrective action. Some examples are:

- a) Para 5(iv): Weekly environmental monitoring reports by the IMC are not being submitted to SEPA.
- b) Para 5 (iv) The proponent must carry out traffic management during the construction period. Over the past 4 months, this has not been done and the public has suffered terribly and has been subject to safety hazards and considerable inconvenience.
- c) Para 5 (xiii) : Some residents of the area had their cable TV connection disrupted during initial project excavation work. The first time they complained, this was addressed (by the "Community Grievance Redress Procedure" committee?). The second time it happened, complaining residents were told not to come back otherwise their legs would be broken! This effectively solved the complaints.
- d) Para 10: Implementation Reports are to be submitted on a monthly basis. Has KMC/Bahria submitted even one such report?

(As a matter of general interest:

- Has Bahria submitted 48 + monthly

Implementation Reports on the Bahria Tower Icon Tower? The EIA for this building (which was obtained two years [!] after construction was commenced and after ignoring all the cogent objections made by Shehri during the public hearing, see Annexure-F) must be cancelled for non-compliance with the conditions of the approval.

- Since the EIA approval is only valid for 3 years, how is the project continuing without a SEPA renewal?)



Original Plot 5 & 6 / CF-5, Clifton Quarter (9,436 sqyds) (Green), 2005 as per KDA Scheme No. 5 of 1972

AMENITY LAND GRABBING (CHINA-CUTTING):

The Bagh-e-Ibn-e-Qasim is under attack again!

In the judgment (1999 SCMR 2883) of the illegal 'Costa Livina' multi-storey that was also being built in the public amenity Bagh in the 1990s, the Hon'ble Supreme Court halted illegal construction while quoting, with approval, a very significant paragraph from

Encyclopedia Britannica:

"It was realized, after bitter experience with suburban land speculations in the 1920s, that the interest of the owner and developer of raw land is sometimes temporary and purely financial, while the urban community must live with results for generations afterward."



Expanded Plot 5 & 6 / CF-5, Clifton Quarter (17,336+ sq yds) (RED), 2013 as occupied by Bahria Town Icon Tower, along with proposed under- ground parking (BLUE) and entry ramps/roads (MAGENTA) into the building

Now, another building project is encroaching on three portions of Bagh-e-Ibn-e-Qasim amenity space, having removed the large ornate steel gate (visible on the previous Google-Earth image dated 13-12-2013, but not on the latest image dated 4-6-2014) with:

- a) Occupation of an additional 7,891 sqyds (to the original 9,436 sqyds of Hussain D'Silva Park apartments Plot 5 & 6/CF-5, Clifton Quarter) of amenity park space for the Bahria Town Icon Tower building.
- b) Proposed take-over, as a part of this project, of the space between the BTIT building and the

Mosque/Aquarium, on the other side of the public road, for entry roads and ramps into the BTIT building parking or the illegal underground parking mentioned below).

- c) Proposed construction of a 3-level, and 2,500-car (ostensibly "public") underground parking lot (but actually connected below ground levels to the BTIT building) in collusion with KMC officials (see Annexure-G).



Comparative of the areas.
The extra area has been "acquired" from the amenity Bagh-e-Ibn-e-Qasim

Do the citizens of Karachi have to **"live with results** [of this theft of their amenity park space] **for generations afterward?"**

H.D. ZONE EIAs/STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

Section 3.1 of the EIA Report states that this **"project has responded to the need emergency from the creation of High Density Zone."**

The following points are pertinent:

- a) As per *Review of IEE & EIA Regulations 2000*, Section

4 r/w Schedule II (H.1), the areas being considered under the Sindh High Density Development Board Act 2010 are themselves subject to an overall EIA study. This has not been carried out by any proponent, including KMC.

As per the Section 18 of the *Sindh Environmental Protection Act 2014*, it is mandatory that *"all provincial government agencies, departments, authorities, local councils and local authorities responsible for formulating policies, legislation, plans and programs to be implemented in Sindh province which may cause any environmental impact in the jurisdiction of the province shall before submitting the same to the competent authority for approved, forward to the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency a strategic environmental assessment....."*. This has not been done to date by anyone.

(A strategic environmental assessment is defined as an analysis of the sustainability of a policy, legislation, plan or programme).



- b) Consequently, these High Density Zone plans are a total fiasco and are environmentally unsustainable (see following para).



Reportedly, numerous skyscrapers, many of which have had IEEs quietly and surreptitiously approved by the officials of SEPA, are listed below.

- Are these all in High Density Zones?
- Why have some been issued IEE NOCs instead of making them submit EIAs? **Where is an integrated study of the traffic congestion (and infrastructure, amenities and utilities) in various parts of Karachi that will be generated by all these monstrosities?**
- Is the function of SEPA officials only to earn money by approving IEEs for skyscrapers?
- **DO THE CITIZENS HAVE TO GO TO COURT FOR EACH AND EVERY RAPE OF THE ENVIRONMENT?**

Skyscrapers currently under construction, planned to rise at least 70 m (230 ft) include: these have been approved under the detrimental Sindh High Density Development Board Act 2010.

No	Building	Height	Floors	Built	Location
1	Bahria Icon Tower	270 m (886 ft)	62	2017	Clifton
2	Bahria Icon Hotel Tower	185 m (607 ft)	45	2017	Clifton
3	Opal 225 Tower	155 m (509 ft)	43	2016	Saddar
4	Ovation Tower	150 m (492 ft)	40	2018	Clifton
5	G4 Tower	140 m (459 ft)	30	2017	Clifton
6	Hoshang Pearl Tower	130 m (427 ft)	38	2016	Clifton
7	Lucky One	130 m (427 ft)	35	2017	Gulshan
8	KASB Altitude	130 m (427 ft)	32	2015	Clifton
9	Com3 Towers	130 m (427 ft)	32 X 2	2016	Clifton
10	The Arkadians Tower A	120 m (394 ft)	34	2015	DHA
11	Lucky One Towers	120 m (394 ft)	32	2017	Gulshan
12	Quality Tower	+120 m (394 ft)	30	2017	Clifton
13	G-5 Tower (Ocean II)	+120 m (394 ft)	30	2017	Clifton
14	Metro Twin Towers	110 m (361 ft)	30 X 2	2015	Clifton
15	Emaar's Pearl Towers	+110 m (361 ft)	35	2018	DHA
16	70 Riviera	+110 m (361 ft)	29	2018	Clifton
17	Emaar's Reef Towers	+110 m (361 ft)	38	2018	DHA
18	Creek Marina	+110 m (361 ft)	28	2017	DHA
19	Coral Towers	+110 m (361 ft)	25 X 2	2018	DHA
20	Royal 8 Icon	+105 m (344 ft)	29 x 5+	2018	Gulshan
21	Bahria Tower	105 m (344 ft)	26	2015	PECHS
22	UBL Tower	+100 m (328 ft)	25	2015	Saddar
23	The Arkadians tower B	+100 m (328 ft)	25	2016	DHA
24	The Centre	100 m (328 ft)	24	2014	Saddar
25	EFU Tower	100 m (328 ft)	18	2014	DHA
26	Iqra University Tower	100 m (328 ft)	15	2014	Defence View
27	KASB Sky View Towers	100 m (328 ft)	22 X2	2014	Johar
28	Saima Royal Residency	100 m (328 ft)	22	2014	Gulshan
29	Royal Towers	100 m (328 ft)	21	2014	DHA
30	Sumaya Bridge View Towers	70 m (230 ft)	19	2014	PECHS

We raised hue and cry and spoke at length. The passing of this act was covered in our newsletter of 2011 issue.

Skyscrapers reportedly approved for construction include:

No	Building	Height	Floors	Status	Est. Completion
1	Karachi Port Tower	594 m (1,949 ft)	117	Approved	2018
2	KPT Twin Tower	352 m (1,155 ft)	78	On hold	
3	IT Tower	205 m (673 ft)	45	On hold	(KMC/CDGK Project)
4	Colosseum Towers	200 m (656 ft)	45	Cancelled	
5	Avari Extension		30	Proposed	
6	Gold Crest Executive		39	Cancelled	
7	Clifton Fin & Trade Center		35	On hold	2012
8	Creek Marina		29	?	
9	Royal Tower		21	Approved	

TRAFFIC ISSUES:

Section 3.1 of the EIA Report states that a Traffic Impact Assessment Study (TIA) for the Clifton Area was made in 2012 of which the following points are pertinent:

- a) On 29-3-2013, the SHDDDB declared eleven zones as 'High Density Zones' including the 'Clifton Waterfront'. None of the Bahria Town Icon Tower, 70 Rivera or the Com-3 (which is being constructed in a park, on a commercial plot meant for small shops catering to park visitors, not for a skyscraper) projects fall in the 'Clifton Waterfront' area.
- b) The present traffic improvement plan, along Shahrah-e-Firdousi only, cannot possibly cater to the traffic from all the hundreds of skyscrapers (with plot-ratio = 1:12) that will be part up in this HD Zone, nor does the TIA give figures for the traffic that will be generated from all these future projects.
- c) Additionally, an overall study of all traffic generated by the entire Clifton Waterfront HD Zone needs to be made (along with the entire future traffic of contiguous HD Zones like Shireen Jinnah Colony, Khayaban-e- Jami, Mai Kolachi Expressway, etc) so that a sustainable traffic strategy/plan is implemented. Half-way measures will solve nothing, and may require additional 'elevated expressways' and other convoluted solutions in the future to address the traffic chaos generated by all

the skyscrapers in these contiguous HD Zones.

- d) This critical principle was enunciated by SEPA in its outstanding decision dated 27-10-2010 rejecting the EIA of 'Noman Castello', a proposed building with only 22-storeys, about 1 km away. SEPA demanded that the "*cumulative impact*" of "*conversion from low density to high density zone*" be considered in the EIA. SEPA also said that "*mitigation measures stated in the EIA report to address the impact cannot be considered sufficient in isolation of integral approach*" (see Annexure-H).
- e) On the basis of the above wise and environment-friendly precedent, the present EIA must also be rejected. No "*cumulative impact*" has been considered, nor has an "*integral approach*" been adopted.

Furthermore, an established principle of traffic planning is that the first steps that must be taken to improve and tackle congestion and vehicle confusion are:

- a) Reduction in the number of single-passenger vehicles (i.e., cars) by enhancing mass transport systems
- b) Removal of encroachments and obstruction (including thelas, khokas, illegal parking, etc) on the roads
- c) Strict implementation of traffic rules and driving regulations.

It is only when these measures have been exhausted, can other techniques (like road-widening, underpasses, flyovers, etc) be considered. This has been

brought to the attention of the municipal authorities (KMC/CDGK, DHA, KPT, etc) on numerous occasions over the past decade but is being blatantly ignored.

The world-renowned urban strategist, former mayor of Bogota, Enrique Penalosa, visited Karachi some years ago to share his experiences on urban sustainability with administrators and citizens - the creation of affordable public transport, construction of schools and dispensaries, an increase in public spaces and a reduction in crime rates. He said, "*To make more highways or bigger roads [including flyovers] to solve traffic jams is like trying to put out a fire with gasoline.*"

Why is KMC trying to put out fires with gasoline?

The strategy adopted in the present design does not seem to be included in the Traffic Impact Study attached to the EIA Report as Appendix-1. Reportedly, a different design was being developed by a foreign consultant, but this was abandoned and a new design was prepared in 6 weeks by a local consultant. How is the TIA related to the present design? Also, the geometry and curvature of the roads shown on the drawing seem inadequate for the speeds that are encountered in Karachi traffic. This will be especially so if the under-pass is moved away from the Jehangir Kothari Parade.

Conclusion:

The Memons have an apt saying for this kind of a situation:

"Eeso pir, na Mooso pir. Badhey say wadho, paiso pir!"

MYTHOLOGY OF WEAPONS

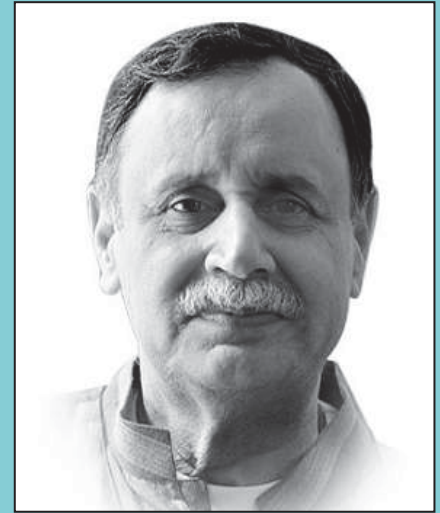
The recent 'deweaponisation' advertisements by the Sindh government provide a classic case study of how one can 'appear' to be executing a task, without actually wanting or intending to do it. Spread over 12 days, these quarter-page ads, which cost some 20-25 million rupees, resulted in the surrender of merely 20 illegal weapons. Most first-year business students would not indulge in this ridiculous 'Return on Investment' exercise - a million rupees for every weapon surrendered.

Deweaponisation has been at the centre of a non-serious, ill-informed, partisan debate - which often played to the gallery - for the past two decades. One must admit that the views of lone crusader Jameel Yousaf have been a rare exception to this rule. Why is

it that everyone considers deweaponisation as the ultimate solution and yet nothing is done about it? This is an attempt to explain the myths and realities of deweaponisation and suggest approaches that ought to be taken - if ever a serious attempt is made to solve this problem.

Myth: The weaponisation of society is a result of our traditions and our involvement in the Afghan war. The truth is that the proliferation of weapons in Pakistan is a direct result of the government's planned, persistent and wild distribution of gun licences as political bribes.

The scale of this uncontrolled and destructive charity can be judged by the Supreme Court suo motu case 16/2011, which concluded that the federal



NAEEM SADIQ

government had issued 46,114 licences of prohibited bore and 1,202,470 licences of non-prohibited bore during the past five years. Not to be left behind, the Sindh government admitted to having issued another 400,000 gun licences. The 342 members of the National Assembly topped the list of bribe-takers by receiving 69,473 prohibited bore licences in the last five years.

Myth: We need more laws to contain the spread of illegal weapons. The truth is that the gun control law, which prescribed imprisonment up to three years for possessing an illegal weapon, has existed in the Subcontinent since 1877. The 1965 Pakistan Arms Ordinance enhanced this punishment to 'not less than 3 years'. The Arms and

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Ammunition Act 1991 raised the bar to life imprisonment and confiscation of property. The law allows the government to not only punish illegal weapon-holders but also cancel or withdraw the licences already issued. Alas these laws have served no other purpose except to be quoted in newspaper ads every few years.

Myth: A licensed weapon is a legal weapon. The truth is that almost half of the licences cannot be traced to any records and almost 70 percent of them were issued without any mandatory security checks. Many thousand fake licences were issued fraudulently or simply sold illegally by officials and middlemen. Recent newspaper reports reveal that 3.5 million licences issued in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are not traceable in official records.

In Karachi, just one assistant commissioner issued over 5,000

fake gun licences in nine months and pocketed the fee. The federal and provincial governments appeared completely clueless when asked to reveal (under the freedom of information law), the number of licences issued in the last 10 years.

Myth: Illegal weapons can be surrendered without compensation, while legal weapons can be retained simply because they can be attributed to real or fake papers called licenses. The truth is that people acquired (often purchased) illegal weapons and will not surrender them without reasonable compensation and not without the assurance that the rich and the powerful too will be made to surrender their weapons.

Can the world's most militant parliament retain its own 69,473 prohibited bore weapons and then expect its citizens to let go of theirs?

Myth: The government can make deweaponisation happen. The truth is that government machinery is dysfunctional and cannot perform this task even in a small street, leave aside any major town or city. It simply does not have the understanding, competence, will or the skill to plan, coordinate, execute and control anything of this scale.

Deweaponisation is not a linear function that can be sublet to an SHO. It requires intricate coordination, planning and management of ground intelligence, arms manufacturers, dealers, carriers, sellers, informers, mafias, militant wings, militias and subject experts.

The deweaponisation debate has reached a dead end. The state can, at best, place half-hearted newspaper ads or hold meaningless press conferences. It is time for the citizens of Pakistan to raise their voice for a National Commission for Deweaponisation.

Overseen by prominent citizens, the commission should be composed of urban commando units of the Rangers and an elite police force (to be created hopefully not under political control). The survival of Pakistan may well be dependent on controlling the killing machines it created itself.

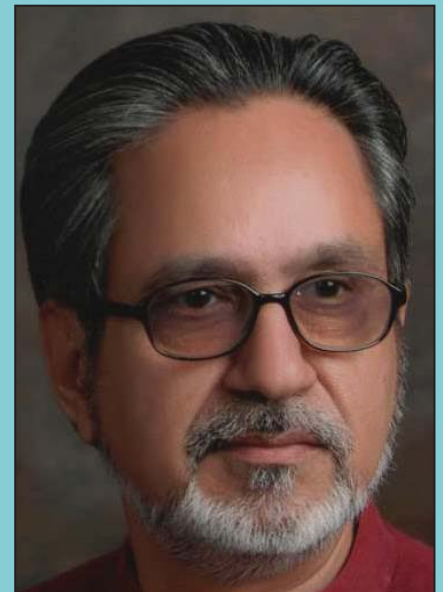
DESIGNERS SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

It is said that altruism or selflessness is one of the basic human traits. Rendering help to the poor and needy has taken various forms and shapes throughout history while the contemporary world has seen the institutionalization of human welfare. There have been several efforts to systemize the service to the underprivileged of the society, for example the Social Welfare systems as practiced in Europe or the Zakaat, a religious obligation in the Muslim world.

The term DSR has been derived from Corporate Social Responsibility (abbreviated as CSR), which today, is an established component of corporate culture. It is generally understood as a self-regulating mechanism whereby a business monitors and ensures its active

compliance with the spirit of the law, ethical standards, and international norms. CSR has also had its share of critics. The power and influence developed by the corporate world and its effects on the global politics and economy is a well-known fact. The critics of CSR argue; when a corporation's purpose is to maximize returns to its shareholders how can it possibly be responsible to the people and society as a whole?

But there is a great lesson in CSR; it is the realization across the globe that it is not just the governments and institutions but every business, every enterprise no matter big or small, NGO's, CSO's, down to each one of us, who is equally responsible and has a role to play in the greater good of the society. And that philanthropy and charities are



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Founder Member Shehri

not enough; investments have to be made on an intellectual/educational level through any means of communication available to further this awakening of social and environmental responsibility.

DSR is introduced as a formal branch of design education in which the designers and design students alike are initiated to go beyond the call of duty and serve the society not only on a professional level but also on a personal level, and merge with the people sharing their knowledge and skill sets.

Every individual, irrespective of its status plays a role in society, positive or negative, which becomes a homogeneous collective whole. This collective chemistry actually determines





and influences the quality of life. When we talk of each and every individual participating in the social good, it is felt that there are some who have slightly greater responsibility than others, and among them is the 'Designers' community who actually shapes the physical world that we live in. Everything ranging from a teaspoon, a teacup, a teapot, a trolley, a table, a town house, a tramcar, a tractor, to an entire town - it is a designed entity. It may seem like over simplification but all entities like schools, hospitals, books or even a toothbrush, that influence our lives are designed. All vital decisions that define and deliver a product, system or an environment in our everyday use is the work of a designer.

The Physical world composed of 'Environments, Products and Systems (and services)' (EPS) that we use every day, have a direct physiological and psychological effect on us, mostly without informing us of the effects and what they do to our planet. The continuous habitual uses of these EPS, regardless of their appropriateness start to dictate

our lives turning it into patterns and reflexes which we accept as norm. Therefore, it is the quality and kind of 'EPS' that we accept that eventually shape our 'Attitudes', 'Lifestyles' and 'Consumption patterns'. We continuously experience a social transformation by virtue of the physical world that we live in and the way one social group reacts or interacts with another. Values, trends and life styles cross geographical borders with amazing speed in our global village, thanks to the digital revolution and global connectivity.

'Lifestyles' become benchmarks and are emulated without calculating their consequences. It is a well-documented fact now that human activity, in order to maintain a modern 'lifestyle', in the last hundred years is the major cause of climate change that endangers the world.

The earth's capacity to absorb and adjust has been greatly damaged because of the fuel emissions and land use changes in the last few decades. The fossil fuel era which has shaped the so called modern industrialized

society with its myth of progress and development, giving us jets, cars, shipping, skyscrapers, computers etc., has come with a very heavy cost to the fragile earth environment.

The influences and consequences of our lifestyles also have a horrifying human cost. The economic systems are manipulated and redesigned so that the wealth keeps shift in g to fewer hands and the divide between the rich and poor becomes bigger and bigger. The energy guzzling nations, who are also the biggest polluters, maintain their lifestyles and their consumption patterns with a constant flow and stock of energy. Our contemporary world's political history is replete with examples when resource hungry powers gang up to invade countries rich in natural energy banks, under one pretext or the other. It doesn't take much to connect the dots. The invasion and destruction of Iraq under the pretext of WMD is a case in point. More than a million Iraqis including women and children have died and are still dying. But the problem is that it is not just growing hunger of a few countries to acquire the

resources, but it's the continuous collective damage to the globe by all, rich or poor, to emulate 'modern lifestyles' that disrupts the very balance of life.

It is felt that one individual who can play an important role in the mission for survival is a designer. The designers wield a considerable power over all this, to heal or hurt, power to change, to modify, eliminate, or evolve totally new patterns. Therefore they should be in the forefront to participate in suggesting ways to alter life patterns. This calls for a rudimentary change in the overall awareness levels and education. The concepts that germinate from such a critical thinking with future in mind are bound to bring about a positive change. New and emerging trends are but a part of this new awakening. For example 'Ethical investment' which requires avoiding investment in industries which have a negative impact on society and the environment, 'Ethical consumption' which requires consideration to depletion of natural resources as well as human costs. It also stresses the role of the consumer in preventing the exploitation of women and children in sweatshop factories. Other revolutionary global phenomena are 'Green Initiatives' and designing, building 'Green' for sustainability.

As the word 'Design' carries such importance in this discussion a brief introduction to 'Design' and the designers' community would be appropriate here. Design is a commonly used word in our

region but generally misunderstood. A simplistic definition of 'design' used frequently by design teachers i.e. 'A problem solving exercise' can also be misconstrued, for if you ask any manager about the nature of his work, he would declare that he is 'solving problems the whole day'. I feel that Design, (the technical side) is a much more sophisticated multi-disciplinary activity that relates to the fine arts, science, engineering, social sciences and economics. It is also a creative process that requires specialized training in a specific design discipline.

Therefore when an urban planner lays out a town on his drawing board, a structural engineer specifies reinforcements to his buildings, electrical engineer does his electrical circuitry, civil engineers, architects, interior designers and product designers present their works it is 'Design', 'problem solving' of a specific nature. From a tiny needle to tall sky scrapers, we are all surrounded by thousands of EPS and they are all design entities carefully worked out by trained professionals.

Unlike the developed countries where a vibrant 'Design culture' thrives, underdeveloped countries experience low priority in education sector and the lowest in the design education. In our part of the world, generally speaking, 'Design' is still taken as a simple 'pattern' making, a form-giving activity or some aesthetic

statement. Today, with growing complexity in life, design has become a collaborative team work where many disciplines cross borders. Design is concerned with imagining how things can be different, visualizing a future and transforming it into reality, effecting every aspect of our life. When design decisions have environmental, social and ethical impacts, there arises a pressing need to provide guidelines for designers and design students within an overarching framework that takes a holistic approach to design in general and ethically-socially responsible design in particular.

In today's complex world the term DSR can be interpreted and elaborated to mean quite a few things, but DSR is introduced here to present its three distinct aspects. First, it is a part of basic education and philosophy of design, then it is seen as a pedagogic exercise and finally it is presented as a social work. The first aspect i.e. as a basic philosophy of design, DSR should be the inherent nature of design and design education where 'material consciousness' and 'process consciousness' along with the ethical-moral studies become essential part of 'quality' design education. Unfortunately a large percentage of schools and vocational design institutions neglect on this aspect. Therefore a major drive is required to revisit basic design education curriculums so that design professionals re-imagine their roles and divert their energies



towards pro-people, pro-environment and pro-planet strategies in mind.

The most admired aspect of DSR is when it seen as a social service, like a 'self-tithing' scheme. A 'tithe' is a word from the medieval church which means something one paid: the peasant would set aside ten percent of his crop for the poor, the rich man would give up ten percent of his income at the end of the year to feed those in need. It was first mentioned by Victor Papanek in 1972 in his landmark book "Design for the Real World".

"Being designers, we don't have to pay money in the form of a tithe...Being designers, we can pay by giving ten percent of our crop of ideas and talents to the seventy-five percent of mankind in need..... Most of the rest of us can't do that well, but I think that even the most successful designer can afford one-tenth of his time for the

needs of men.

How do we fare with this new found entity? Pakistan may be walking on a tight rope - but is famous and extremely rich in DSR and philanthropic culture and has many a Good Samaritan designers practicing Self-tithing or DSR on a big scale. The list is long but just to mention a few; Yasmeen Lari, the first female architect of the country who has quit regular practice and dedicated her life



to uplifting poorer communities and heritage work. ASA, a leading architectural firm, run by Shahid Abdulla and Arshad Abdulla (Late), known for many pro-bono projects for the society, but among the most remarkable is the creation of TCF (The Citizens Foundation) and designing several hundred schools, that provide subsidized quality education for the poorer sections throughout the country. Architects, husband and wife, Pervaiz and Sajda Vandal based in Lahore work to empower rural communities having a special focus on the revival and rejuvenation of indigenous arts and crafts. Indus Earth an NGO in Karachi managed by an Architect Shahid Khan works on the same lines helping the disadvantaged communities. Arif Hasan who is a world renowned architect and planner, is also a 'design activist' known for his pro-poor, pro - environment presentations, research and activism.

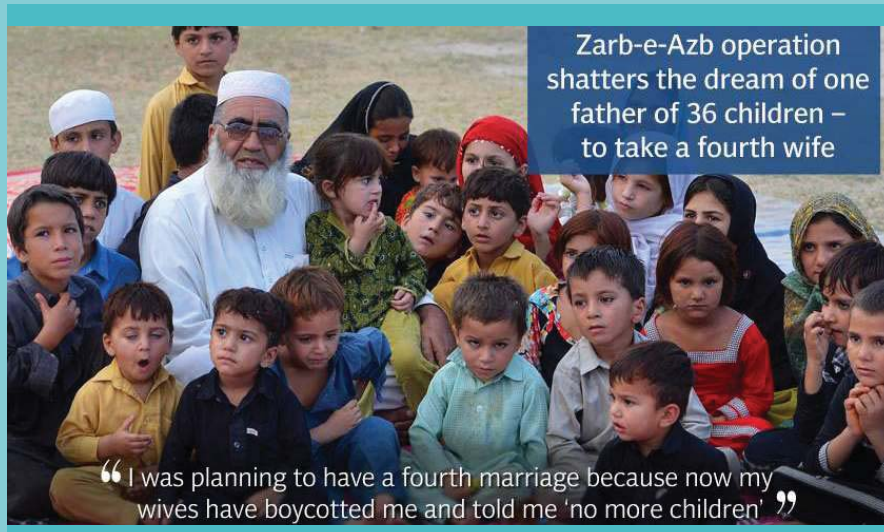
Designer's community which is traditionally known for catering to the corporate industry and pushing the products of the privileged is finally taking an overhaul. It is beginning to take a holistic view where a secure and peaceful future of all sections of the society is in mind. I feel that this new social consciousness should be built in the very nature of the design thinking and general activity.

URBAN ENCROACHMENT AND OTHER ISSUES

DANISH AZAR ZUBY

I must confess I am guilty of devouring the free meal that came with the recent seminar, "Encroachments issue in Karachi" organized by an NGO 'Shehri' at a local 5 star hotel. I also patronized the bottled water lobby by consuming the water that was freely available, all under an over dose of air-conditioning and lighting in an energy starved country. Today one can easily calculate the number of trees sacrificed in order to produce stacks of paper napkins that were available on every table. I guess, looking at the bigger picture, we all somehow commit these petty sins in order to perpetuate our own predicament.

But then seminars also have merit as one gets the first hand experience of experts discussing threadbare the nitty gritty of the specific issues, although the results of the discourse seldom have any tangible effect and are forgotten with the passage of time. Despite all this 'Shehri' should be complimented for their diehard tenacity to raise human rights and environmental issues. They have made a considerable history on advocacy and activism on issues of public interest.



As I left the seminar I felt I had gained a lot of knowledge regarding the subject but felt helpless and ridiculed. The logic is very simple. As long as we have VIPs amongst us who can encroach and occupy lands, buildings, around their own properties and close off roads attached to their properties with impunity, is there any use discussing the finer points of encroachment laws, sections and LEA's responsibilities to remove encroachments etc. We have one of the biggest and most glaring precedents right here in Karachi that no one can challenge, so why bother.

I think that it was perhaps because of the mercy and benevolence shown by the owners of Bilawal house - more than the daring Dharna of PTI team that half of the main road

adjacent to Bilawal house was opened up for public use. I dare say if it was a result of activism then the remaining 100'-0" of main road should also have been released. I doubt if anybody or any institution in this country can remove this unlawful and illegal encroachment i.e. until supremacy of Law returns to this land of the pure. Wishful thinking.

Although there are several factors responsible for our downward spiral in every sector including built environment and its associated ills but I would like to mention one that we have accepted as a fact of life i.e. absence of Rule of Law. Law is akin to a pretty female, I suggest, who is constantly harassed and molested by each one of us every day. May it be



a trivial signal jumping or issues relating to built environment or matters relating to constitution and governance. Today we have come to a point that this 'Lady Law' is being gang raped by many in high places and low. Should we then complain about the chaos that surrounds us? Should we cry when supremacy of Law is sacrificed at the altar of expediency and self-interest?

So it is not just encroachment issues but many more complicated but interrelated issues of governance, planning and management that are at stake here. In the last sixty six years for how long have we had a local government and a mayor in Karachi? Even the provincial and the federal governments can't settle their autonomy issues. We have personalities running the show. We have had almost a dozen mega planning exercises for Karachi but what have we made of it - a most hazardous megalopolis where peaceful

life is now unthinkable. There must be something wrong somewhere, is it so hard to figure it out why?

I believe it is the 'Domino' effect of 'Lawlessness'. We repeat the lament every day that 'nothing seems to work anymore' but fail to see the connection. The biggest Domino - with the inscription LAW has fallen and its chain reaction is taking down the entire system, bit by bit, demolishing the institutions with it. We have now become saturated with people who break law as a matter of routine. Wrong doing has become a reflex action thanks to the powerful, the elites and the VIP's who lead in the game of corruption and wrong doing. Everything has been politicized and personalized. To top it all the judicial system has also been infected by the same poison that afflicts the entire body. It's a catch twenty two. The other theory is that as long we have institutions and instruments that elect law-

breakers to fill up the seats of law-makers in our parliaments we don't stand a chance for graceful survival as 'lawlessness' trickles down from the top.

The second most important factor causing existential threats to our beloved land deserves a mention here and that is 'Population Explosion'. No wonder it is at times referred to as a 'bomb'. The demographic pressures (which lead to socio-political and economic pressures) with unmatched planning and development creates the scenario that shake the very foundations of our existence. In the last sixty six years we have added almost 170 million mouths to feed, house and provide gainful employment to, becoming one of most populated countries in the world. This is back breaking in absence of matched planning and development. As far as Karachi is concerned we have stopped counting how many thousands of people migrate to Karachi every week. It is but a natural cause for densification. Call it by whatever name you like but 'Ribbon Commercialization' and 'Vertical Slums' are but a result of such demographic and economic pressures while corrupt to the core institutions are only making it worse.

Anybody for 'One Child' policy, and another seminar on Lawlessness?

CPLC CHARGED PARKING

There are two kinds of citizens-one that pays taxes and one that doesn't. Taxation revenue is what builds our cities' infrastructure and public works. But what about the case in which the public works body refuses to collect taxation and sells the rights to taxation to a third party? This is exactly what has happened in the case of charged parking in one of Karachi's busiest commercial areas.

This issue came to light subsequent to Shehri's Freedom of Information request to Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) on charged parking bye-laws. In the course of events it was revealed that KMC has handed over Charged Parking to Citizen Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) on Zaibunnisa Street and Abdullah Haroon Road. The revenue earned through charged parking is a form of local taxation

that can only be deposited in the exchequer. The revenue cannot to be given away to a non-city government 3rd party - in this case, the CPLC. The agreement signed between Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) and Citizen Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) clearly states that the revenues collected from the charged parking project will be credited to the CPLC. The agreement is also quite one sided - the expense of printing charged parking receipts will be borne by the city government and yet revenues will go to a third party. Furthermore, there was no public auction for the rights to collect charged parking in the area. The whole deal was done behind closed doors without allowing any public objections.

With KMC already failing to perform as well as it should be,



SUNDUS RASHEED

the added loss of revenue will only make things worse. Not only is this agreement illegal, it is also a financial disaster for KMC. On one hand, KMC is denying salaries to its employees claiming low revenue collections and on the other hand it is handing over its own lucrative revenue streams to others.

We at Shehri urge the citizens of Karachi to take on a more pro-active role in holding our governments and public works organizations accountable for decisions that will ultimately affect us - the citizens of Karachi. You can write to Mr. Rauf Akhtar Farooqi, Administrator KMC and Mr. Raza Abbas Rizvi, Director Charged Parking highlighting your concerns. You can also contact us at info@shehri.org for more information on the case.



SHEHRI ACTIVITIES

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP "RIGHT TO INFORMATION"

22nd February 2014, Movenpick Hotel, Karachi

SHEHRI REPORT



Chairperson Shehri-CBE

The Right to Information was made a constitutional right in the 18th Amendment, Article 19-A for transparent governance and citizen empowerment. The Federal Freedom of Information Ordinance was initiated in 2002, rules were issued in 2004 and Sindh Freedom of Information Act 2006 was also promulgated but without any input from stakeholders. Till to-date the FOI laws has not been fully implemented and accessing information is still difficult. Neither are the information officers fully aware of their role and responsibilities nor are the citizens aware of their right to

Objectives

- To build awareness and knowledge about Article 19-A 'Right to Information - RTI'
- To build skills on using this law to bring about changes in the existing systems
- To highlighting the value and importance of the law
- Draw up an action plan on how the civil society organizations/ citizens and media can help strengthen the implementation of the law by educating the demand and the supply side.

access government - held information.

Shehri-CBE organized a workshop and training exercise on 'Right to Information' at Movenpick Hotel on Saturday 22nd February 2014. Speakers urged the government to

further strengthen the Freedom of Information (FOI) laws as per guidelines of United Nations (UN), saying that improvement in FOI laws would improve the level of governance in the country.

Mrs. Amber Alibhai, General



Secretary of Shehri welcomed the participants and introduced the aims and objectives of the workshop. She highlighted the active role Shehri-CBE played in trying to facilitate good governance by advocating transparency in government functions and informed and proactive role of citizenry in seeking protection of their fundamental rights as enshrined in the constitution legislation of all state institutions.

Dr. Syed Raza Ali Gardezi of Shehri highlighted the salient features of Article 19-A of the Constitution of Pakistan. He

talked about the FOI legislations that comprise laws guaranteeing access to data held by the state and their status at the national and provincial levels. He explained that the applicability of the Ordinance in terms of which type of state institutions can be asked to share data and what type of information can be accessed and what type of information and record is exempt from disclosure.

Mr. Sameer Dodhy, Chairperson of Shehri organization said that Information is the oxygen of democracy and Right to

Information has been recognised as a fundamental right and touchstone of all the freedoms to which the United Nation is consecrated. It ensures accountability and transparency in the functioning of public bodies and it empowers people to meaningfully participate in decision making processes at various levels of government. The concept of RTI is not new, rather it has evolved through recognition by internationally accepted and recognised legal and human rights instruments, as well as through continuous efforts on the part of various reputed individuals, social movements and non-governmental organizations.

The participants said that enforcement of Article 19-A was essential to bringing transparency in the governance system. They said that effective functioning of democracy depended on participation of citizens who were well informed.



SHEHRI ACTIVITIES

CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP

'TOWARDS INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT: A VISION FOR REFORM' MAY 24TH 2014

SHEHRI REPORT



Shehri Citizens for a Better Environment and the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung jointly organised a workshop on the topic of 'Towards integrated coastal management: a vision for reform'.

The speakers stressed that the devastation of resources was a result of the absence of a conflict resolution mechanism, competing and at times divergent interests clashing and as a result sustainable and wise use of natural resources was not possible.

Tracing the history of the issue, former Sindh forests secretary

and consultant to the Sindh Coastal Development Authority (SCDA) Shams-ul-Haq Memon said that efforts had been made several times in this regard to formulate some plans, but these could not be executed.

He said that the Karachi Development Authority prepared the first plan, the Karachi Coastal Recreation Development Plan for 1990 to 2000 but it was never implemented.

The second plan was Coastal Environmental Management Plan for Pakistan, which was prepared jointly by the United

Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific and the Pakistani government in 1996, but it too was never implemented.

He said that the third plan - Integrated Coastal Zone Management - was compiled by the Sindh forests department and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and it also could not be applied.

Currently the SCDA had prepared a five-year coastal development plan and a 20-year perspective plan.



He said some of the major challenges faced were: a) overexploitation of natural resources - overfishing and deforestation; b) conversion of coastal lands - mega township developments and encroachments; c) urban and industrial growth, increasing trends of pollution; inadequate application of environmental assessments; climate change, sea level rise, sea intrusion, etc.

Referring to some of the governance difficulties in the integrated coastal management, the senior forest expert said that lack of coordination mechanism, multiple agencies with competing and conflicting mandates, lack of an umbrella legislation for coastal areas, absence of vision and strategic plan, absence of land use planning for coastal areas, lack of participatory management or public-private partnership and in the absence of a proper process of progressing from

ICM planning to actual implementation, the coastal zone could not be managed properly.

Highlighting more shortcomings, he added that there was an absence of monitoring of coastal trends and processes. Also, reliable and updated data was not available and real values of coastal resources were not recognized while carrying out the development planning.

He expressed that coastal areas were rich in biodiversity and had much potential for



developing eco-tourism and stressed that role of mangroves as green infrastructure in carbon sequestration and coastal protection needed to be recognized.

Farhan Anwer of Shehri said that a lack of viable data, research and documentation accurately profiling the state of coastal ecosystems was one of obstacles in adopting an integrated approach for the coastal zone management.

He mentioned that another reason was wide distribution of jurisdiction and management aspects of coastal land among different agencies and institutions spread across all tiers of governance - federal, provincial and local - with ineffective institutional and legislative space for coordination and decision making.

He stressed that unless all resources and aspects from land to marine were taken into consideration while preparing a comprehensive plan and all stakeholders joined hands to develop a body that could implement that plan, an integrated coastal zone management was not possible.

Amber Alibhoy, Dr. Sono Khangrani, Shaharyar Ahmed, Pervaiz Sadiq, Dr Raza Gardezi, Raza Shah and others also participated in the discussion that followed the presentations.

SHEHRI ACTIVITIES

CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP

'Encroachments issue in Karachi' Thursday 17th July 2014

SHEHRI REPORT



As long as political parties, the Karachi city government, police, land-owning agencies, traders and shopkeepers are guilty of encroachments there is no chance of removing them in the city unless its residents develop an educated view of safety and aesthetics.

Context

Karachi, a city of 18 million is considered the economic powerhouse of Pakistan spread over 3,600 sq.km. It has a varied physical and ecological landscape, a vibrant and educated populace, an important geo-strategic locale, and a rapidly growing services sector. Karachi is also the main commercial and industrial center of Pakistan. However, despite all the positive indicators, it is unfortunate that

due to bad governance that include unplanned and unregulated physical development and the associated pollution threats, the natural and built environment is equally threatened and it is losing its position as the No.1 economic powerhouse of Pakistan. Land is no longer considered a social asset to be used for public benefit rather it has become a commercial commodity. A select few in society determine

the land use. Decisions like the allowing for commercialization of various traffic corridors within the city under the former City District Government Karachi (CDGK) Change of Land Use and Master Planning Bye-Laws 2003, notified on February 12, 2004, and the recent efforts at urban densification in the absence of proper environmental and social safeguards have had and will continue to have multiple adverse impacts among which



is facilitation of encroachment of public spaces e.g. road pavements, parking on roads, conversion of parks and playgrounds to non-amenity purposes etc.

The Project

The aim of the consultative workshop organized by Shehri-CBE was to profile the growing menace of urban encroachment and highlight how it affects all people in Karachi whether it is at their door step, in their markets or on their pavements.

Shehri's Amber Alibhai gave pictorial examples of encroachments on government land, public roads, streets and pavements backed by the patronage of the police and political parties. "Unfortunately, the government policy is to enable or facilitate the government for its own interest," she said. There are two types of land affected by encroachments: one is land that is assessed by the revenue authorities and is for private occupation, and the other is not assessed by the

revenue department, such as roads, parks, playgrounds, footpaths and pavements, water courses, nullahs.

"Unfortunately, the media pays attention when the anti-encroachment team removes the encroachments from assessed lands but not when it comes to assessed land occupation, which is criminal in nature [too]," she said.

Farhan Anwar of Sustainable Initiatives highlighted how the city's population has increased in different phrases, but the planning mechanism has not changed accordingly. Planning process for urban infrastructure has failed due to an absence of continuity, absence of implementation and financial mechanisms, absence of political mandate and absence of stakeholder consultations.

During a survey, it emerged that 86% of people in the city do not need the encroachment or commercialisation in their area but do not want to take action as they know it is

fruitless and no government would take action against the encroachers, he said. "In the absence of a strong city government, Karachi is being run on an ad hoc basis with multiple stakeholders safeguarding their own interests," he said. "The lack of centralised mechanism in the city can be gauged by the fact that when there was a fire emergency last month during the Jinnah airport attack, the army had to come to douse the fire."

Shehri's Dr. Raza Ali Gardezi spoke of the commercialisation policy of 2003 in which the city's 25 big streets were commercialised. He said that in accordance with the Sindh Local Government Ordinance, 2013 footpaths and public spaces will be maintained without obstruction to public use, but unfortunately the government departments, including the law enforcers, traffic police, KMC, DHA and KPT are not fulfilling their responsibility to rid the city from this menace.

The Urban Resource Centre's Zahid Farooq, MNA Dr Arif Alvi, MPA Hafeezuddin Advocate, KMC director for anti-encroachment Mazhar Khan, Traffic DSP Sagheer Jafery also spoke. He said that during the British Raj an anti-encroachment act was implemented but it is now useless. The government must amend the laws if they want to make the police an active force against encroachers.

MANGROVES

NATIONAL ACTION AND STRATEGY PLAN

SHEHRI REPORT



Mangroves for the Future (MFF) is a programme that aims at promoting sustainable coastal development through participatory and inclusive decision making for facilitating strategic investments in coastal ecosystems. For a country like Pakistan, inclusion in MFF opens up a number of exciting opportunities for both positively participating in 'region wide' initiatives and in prioritizing actions to effectively mobilize critical national stakeholders and resources for visioning, implementing and

sustaining a viable national coastal management regime. There is now a growing recognition in Pakistan that sustainable coastal management can only be realised through the adoption of an 'Integrated Coastal Management (ICM)' process. Within this context, MFF serves as an extremely viable 'institutional and programmatic' opportunity for 'incubating' well-coordinated efforts and for facilitating progress towards establishing a 'National ICM regime' for Pakistan. This is because its

'approach' and 'implementation mechanism' address key 'gaps' and 'constraints' hindering the desirable progress. The Programmes of Work (PoWs) contextualising the MFF can suitably assist in establishing 'priority areas of action' and in setting 'appropriate landmarks' in the 'ICM Roadmap'. A hitherto 'unexplored potential' of the National Coordination Body (NCB) has specifically been assessed in the present National Strategy and Action Plan (NSAP) for 'steering' the 'process' not just in terms of

managing 'grant projects' implementation but also for acting as a 'forum' for facilitating dialogue, discussion and consensus-building among the key stakeholders on critical challenges in policy and institutional reform related to coastal resources management. In addition, the NSAP may also contribute to national progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, agreed upon at the Convention of Parties (COP) 11 in Hyderabad, India (2011), to protect and utilise biodiversity resources in Pakistan. In a similar vein, the NSAP provides a suitable strategic framework for aligning action to the Hyogo Framework for Action to counter disaster risks and build resilience, as well as strategies and measures for climate change adaptation (such as Local Adaptation Plans of Action).

An assessment of the status of Pakistan's coastal ecosystem and the challenges associated with its sustainability has clearly indicated that the key issues are lack of holistic visioning, inadequate coordination and disintegrated planning. The lack of a consolidated and updated 'Data Bank' of the physical, climatic, hydrologic and ecological features of the Pakistan coast is a critical gap in the ICM process. The approach of treating the coastal zone in isolation from the terrestrial activities having an impact on the coast has not been able to address the degradation of coastal

The Programme-Mangroves for Future

- A partnership-based initiative promoting investment in coastal ecosystems that support sustainable development.
- Provides a collaborative platform for the many countries, sectors and agencies tackling the challenges to coastal ecosystem conservation and livelihood sustainability, and assists them to work towards a common goal promoting an integrated, ocean-wide approach to coastal area management.
- Seeks to achieve demonstrable results through regional cooperation, national programme support, private sector engagement and community action.
- Facilitates concerted actions and projects to generate and share knowledge more effectively, empower institutions and communities, and enhance the governance of coastal ecosystems.

The Objective - Facilitating the Establishment of a National ICM Regime

- Multi-sectoral and interagency coordination.
- Engagement of multi-stakeholders and partners.
- Promotion of environmental investment.
- Developing local capacity in integrated planning and management.
- Applying sea-use zoning and area-based management.
- Linking upstream and downstream concerns.
- Building public and private partnerships.



ecosystems and livelihoods. A change in approach and strategy from 'Coastal Zone Management' to 'Integrated Coastal Management' is required. The NSAP aims to outline a 'strategic framework' and a 'construct' for a role of MFF in contributing to the 'process' by mobilising institutional and financial resources within some universally.

Executive Summary 6 accepted



defining markers of an ICM 'roadmap'.

A 'cross-referential' and 'relational construct' has been established between an 'ICM Action Plan' and the 'MFF PoWs' that has then been placed within the confines of the 'NCB Mandate'.

The starting point for an ICM plan is the structuring of a 'framework' that can facilitate multi-sectoral and inter-agency coordination by engaging the relevant stakeholders. The MFF NCB is well placed to give a headstart in fulfilling this fundamental ICM requirement as it provides both a 'forum' and the 'associated mandate' to assist in addressing this critical gap. It has therefore

been recommended that the MFF NCB charts for itself a 'proactive' role where alongside 'steering' MFF specific initiatives (small and medium grants projects), it uses the NCB platform to build consensus and formulate policies and strategies for 'integrated coastal management'. The NCB can specifically utilize the PoW listed in the thematic areas - 'apply knowledge', 'empower civil society' and 'enhance governance' to build a 'consensus' and align these to meeting international obligations such as, those under the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and to facilitate suitable 'follow-up actions' for formulating the structural framework and implementation process of a

'National ICM regime'. This can be done both through working within the NCB membership and also by seeking an 'outreach' for collaborating with relevant stakeholders outside the ambit of the NCB. Some actions could be of a 'direct nature' such as brainstorming for conceptualising legislative and institutional 'blueprints' while other actions could be of a 'supportive' and 'indirect' nature such as facilitating a process of 'knowledge management' so that the ICM can rely on appropriate scientific knowledge and information for instituting actions and also through promoting measures for 'capacity building' of all relevant stakeholders.

ABOUT

Shehri- Citizens for a Better Environment is a Karachi-based voluntary advocacy group established by concerned citizens in 1988 to project their apprehensions about the deterioration of the environment.

Shehri focuses on issues relating to the built and natural environment. There is a special emphasis on tackling illegal construction and zoning violations, and their related symptoms, e.g., pollution, traffic congestion, drainage, encroachments, parking unavailability, overloaded utilities and infrastructure, law and order issues. Shehri monitors the regulatory bodies and government agencies, and encourages civil society to do the same.

SUCCESSSES

Demolition of Glass Towers illegal encroachment on the notified road-widening of Clifton Road. This action saved the road from being constricted.

Saving of 480-acre Gutter Baghicha Park on Manghopir Road. This is the largest open recreational space in a low income congested area of approximately one million inhabitants and is the lungs of Iyari.

Saving of 62-acre Kidney hill Park in Karachi Cooperative Housing Society Union inclusive of 18-acre notified KWSB installations.

Establishment of the Oversee Committee of the KBCA and a Public Information Counter.

Halting commercialization and sale of 11 KTC and 15 SRTC bus-depot plots in Karachi and Sindh. Today these plots are to be used by the

CDGK for intercity bus terminals and other related transportation activity, removing illegal bus terminals from the public roads.

Saving (Makro) webb Ground playfield in Lines Area, Karachi.

Demolition of apartment structure Costa Linina in amenity Bagh-e-Ibne-Qasim, Clifton. This action stopped similar illegal allotments. CDGK has now developed the park.



Preventing commercialization of Doongi Ground park / playfield in Lahore.

Reducing, as part of Lahore Bachhao Tehrik, the amount of damage from Canal Bank Widening Project.

Reaffirmation of seismic building code in Quetta.

Training 1355 (Approx) police officers all over Pakistan on participatory citizen-police interaction, human rights violations and police reforms.

Over the years, Shehri's expertise has been recognized by superior courts and it has been called as amicus curiae (friend of the court) in cases dealing with built environment violations.

OBJECTIVES

Establishment of an aware and pro-active civil society, good governance, transparency and rule of law.

Promotion of research, documentation, dialogue with and influence of public policies.

Setting up an effective and representative local government system, e.g. capacity building and training.

Preparation of a representative Master Plan / Zoning plan for Karachi city and effective implementation of the same.

Observance of basic human rights in society.

HOW IS SHEHRI RUN?

A volunteer Managing Committee, duly elected by the General Body for a term of two (2) years, thereby functioning in an open and democratic manner. Membership is open to all who subscribe to its objectives and memorandum.

SHEHRI
needs
Volunteers
to work in the following areas:

- Legal
- Media & Outreach
- Anti-Pollution
- Parks & Recreation
- Gun Free Society
- Conservation & Heritage
- Fund Raising

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

 Occupation: _____

JOIN SHEHRI

To Create a Better Environment

With a cross cheque of
Rs. 1000/-
 (Annual Membership Fee)
 in the name of Shehri-CBE
 with passport size photograph

Address: 88-R, Block 2,
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 Pakistan. Tel/Fax : 3453-0646

SHEHRI MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2014 (Rs. 1000)

Join Shehri and play
 your role as a good citizen to make
 this city a clean, healthy and
 environmentally
 friendly place to live in!

IUCN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

DEMAND THOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY OF PROPOSED NUCLEAR PLANT AT HAWKS BAY

SHEHRI REPORT

Karachi: A meeting of Executive Committee of the IUCN Pakistan National Committee Members was convened at the IUCN Country Office in Karachi.

The Executive Committee Members elected Mr. Malik Amin Aslam as Chairperson of the Pakistan National Committee of IUCN Members, Syed Mahmood Nasir as the Vice Chair and Mr. Nadir Gul as a member of the Executive Committee. The Pakistan National Committee comprises the Climate Change Division as a state member, six government agencies, 27 NGOs and one international organization.

The NGO Executive Members discussed the announcement of setting up new nuclear plants with support from China. The members were of the view that though a severe energy crisis in the country cannot be ignored, this particular option requires decisions based on facts and a thorough cost benefit analysis. The members unanimously agreed that a detailed study should be conducted on the technical pros and cons of the nuclear power option.

The NGO members, in particular, expressed their serious concerns on the location of the sites in a close proximity to the most densely populated city of the country. This aspect requires utmost care and caution before proceeding. The other related aspects of the issue i.e. contingency evacuation plan in case of any emergency and proper disposal of the nuclear



waste also requires to have in-depth study. They demanded that a proper EIA of the proposed energy option should be carried out with full stakeholder consultation and public hearing, as required by law.

While reviewing a letter sent by the Heirs of H. H. Late Ameer of Bhawalpur regarding deteriorating condition of Derawar Fort in Cholistan Desert, the members felt that, after the 18th amendment, the Punjab government needs to take urgent cognizance of this issue and take concrete efforts to protect this unique heritage site and plan to also take steps to get it included in the World Heritage sites of the world. The Members also appreciated the recent drive by the Sindh Government to take concrete steps to raise the awareness about, and also save their historical and cultural heritage. The Punjab Government also needs to ensure that this invaluable heritage is preserved for future generations.

Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, Country Representative IUCN

Pakistan presented an overview of the IUCN World Parks Congress to be held in Sydney, Australia from 12-19 November 2014. The participants discussed effective participation in the World Parks Congress to showcase and present results of some of the initiatives related to National Parks and Protected Areas in Pakistan.

Participants of the Executive Committee Meeting were: Mr. Malik Amin Aslam, IUCN global Vice President and Regional Councillor, Asia; Mr. Javed Jabbar, Founding President, Baanhn Beli and former IUCN global Vice President and Regional Councillor; Syed Mahmood Nasir, Inspector General Forest, Climate Change Division; Ms. Meher Marker Noshirwani, Technical Director, Trust for Coastal Resource; Mr. Roland deSouza, Member Shehri; Mr. Room Saeed Hayat, Chief Executive, Institute of Rural Management.

Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, Country Representative IUCN Pakistan and Mr. George Sadiq, Program Officer, IUCN Pakistan represented the IUCN Secretariat.