

**International Conference on Sustainable Urban Form for India Cities**

**9<sup>th</sup> January, 2012, New Delhi**

*Organized by: National Institute of Urban affairs, Centre for Environment Planning and Technology and School of Planning and Architecture*



**The Cityform-India: Sustainable Urban Form for Indian Cities conference** was held on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 at National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), in association with the Centre for Environment Planning and Technology, Ahmedabad and School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi. The conference focused on the need to examine sustainable urban form in India, where cities are growing at a rapid rate. The conference was attended by over 50 participants representing Universities of UK, DFID India, Municipal Corporation of Faridabad, SPA, CSE, ICLEI-SA, NCRPB, Town and Country Planning Organization, Institute of Urban Transport, etc.

**Prof. Chetan Vaidya**, *Director, NIUA* welcomed the participants and gave a brief background of the CityForm: India research project, its objectives and provided a brief outline of the conference. **Prof. Mike Jenks**, *Oxford Brooke University, UK*, made a presentation and discussed the importance of sustainable urban form and the role of density, mono-centric to polycentric urban forms, connected urban development and inclusive design in the pursuit of sustainability in the urban context. He urged in finding the right balance between the needs of the public with any future growth and development priorities that may be required is the key.



Prof. Mike Jenks emphasizing on Sustainable Urban Form

**Prof. Nitin Desai**, *President, NIUA*, stated that city designs and urban planning has to keep pace with enormous social and economic changes. Cities need to be able to change, respond to intermediate, unpredictable forces. Complex environmental changes will alter the climate in which



cities operate, the energy that is required for their economies to function, provision of sustainable mode of transport to enable mobility. He discussed the role of densification, use of land more effectively, need for re-examination of energy use. He also outlined the issues addressed by the Cityform Study for Faridabad and Rajkot, particularly the way in which the urban lands are being consumed, cases of land acquisition and infrastructural development.

**Mr. Arun Goel**, *JS-UD, MoUD*, keynote speaker delivered a presentation outlining the Ministry's urban initiatives, the National Mission on Sustainable Habitat and its components. He stressed on importance of Urban Planning Indicators in monitoring progress toward achieving sustainable cities. It is increasingly necessary to rely on such effective tools to analyze the performance of cities. It is also necessary to have accurate and timely information on key policy variables and performance indicators which measure urban conditions and changes.

After the presentation of Mr. Goel, there was an intercalative discussion, wherein participants representing various organizations gave their valuable inputs and suggestions on issues such as cost of transition of urban forms, design based modifications in Indian cities which are comparatively larger than other global cities, use of technology in commercial and government buildings to reduce carbon foot prints, incorporation of 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan recommendations of urban transport and linked infrastructure and need of training and capacity building of ULB officials and other staff.

Thereafter, **Dr Shibu Raman**, *Warwick University* and **Dr Nicola Dempsey**, *University of Sheffield* presented the research framework and methodology of the project and discussed how urban form and its components- the size, shape, density, land uses and layouts of a city - can influence sustainability of a region.

The first technical session was chaired by Prof. EFN Robero while the second technical session was led by Prof. AK Maitra. **Prof. K.T. Ravindran**, *Department of Urban Design, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi* along with **Ms. Arpita Dayal** gave presentation on "Faridabad Case Study". They discussed about the rapid growth in and around city, physical dimensions, size, shape, density, land use, spatial structure and building typology of Faridabad. The presentation detailed out some inferences from the selected Neighbourhood case study areas within the city.

In the second session, **Prof. Utpal Sharma**, *CEPT University, Ahmedabad* presented the "Case study of Rajkot." His presentation highlighted the conditions of intensive use of land in terms of infrastructure, FSI conditions, balance between resources and tradition and affordability of people, etc. It detailed out the six town planning schemes studied during the research project.

**Ms. Satmohini Ray**, *Senior Research Fellow, NIUA*, in her presentation threw the light on the overall findings from the Cityform-India, research study. She drew attention on need to design cities that are sustainable at every level, move towards compact densities, find optimal mix of land uses, and encourage use of integrated public transport. The presentation further detailed

the draft recommendations focusing on the need to coordinate city level strategic planning and investment planning exercises, guided by a single city- or regional-level vision for growth.

While concluding, **Prof. AK Maitra**, SPA summarized the discussions and mentioned that urban forms are taken as surrogate of urban planning processes and environmental management issues but we need to address issues of sustainable habitat in inclusive way.

Prof. KT Ravindran and Ms. Arpita Dayal sharing views on Faridabad



Prof. Utpal Sharma presenting the Rajkot model



Dr. Shibu Ramn discussing the research framework



Prof. Chetan Vaidya and Prof. AK Maitra during an interactive session with the participants



Ms. Satmohini Ray disseminating the overall findings