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National Workshop on Cultural, Heritage and Religious Cities under PEARL

The 3rd National workshop was held in Ahmedabad on 18th April, 2010 as part of the International workshop on "Asian World Heritage Cities". It was organized by the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT) University in collaboration with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The objective of the Workshop was to bring all the Indian heritage cities together on a common platform to discuss various issues and way forward towards better heritage management.

Officials from 14 JNNURM cities attended the workshop including Ujjain, Allahabad, Bhubaneswar, Madurai, Mysore, Agra, Puri Nanded, Indore, Jaipur, Udaipur and others. Besides, the workshop also had participation of academicians, knowledge managers, and various organisations such as the All India Institute of Local Self Government, Dhan Foundation, National Technical Advisory Group (NTAG), Indian Heritage Cities Network, Archaeological Survey of India and CISCO.

Welcoming the participants, Prof. Utpal Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Planning and Public Policy, CEPT University mentioned about current work being done at the research cell of the university for the Bhadra Revitalization Plan and the Gandhi Ashram conservation plan.

In his address, Mr. I.P. Gautam, IAS, Municipal Commissioner, Ahmedabad, highlighted AMC's work in the area of heritage conservation. He also spoke at length about the Sabarmati Riverfront Project, Bus Rapid Transit System project and other urban development activities.

Prof. Chetan Vaidya, Director NIUA in his presentation explained the objectives of PEARL, and the idea of

sharing knowledge amongst cities on issues of urban planning and reforms. He also discussed other initiatives such as workshops, conferences at the city and national level, documentation of reforms and best practices, and sharing of information through newsletters and the website www.indiaurbanportal.in.

In the first technical session, Prof. Saswat Bandyopadhyay from CEPT gave a presentation on

Urban Development Minister meets NIUA Team

The Hon'ble Minister of Urban Development, Government of India, Sh. S. Jaipal Reddy met NIUA President Prof. Nitin Desai, Vice-President Prof. Om Mathur, and Director Prof. Chetan Vaidya on April 30, 2010. The Minister appreciated ongoing activities under PEARL and congratulated for its achievements.



Sh. S. Jaipal Reddy with Prof. Chetan Vaidya

"Cultural, Heritage and Local Development: Lessons from PEARL Heritage cities network" and discussed some of the related heritage management projects. He emphasized the need for integration of all planning activities of a city by giving the example of planning for the Puri Konark region.

Prof. Shrawan Acharya, CEPT called for heritage planning to be a part of inclusive urban development strategies in emerging economies. He reiterated that heritage concerns should integrate with overall long



term city plans such as City Development Plan (CDP), Land Use Plan etc.



Mr. I.P. Gaufam addressing the participants

This technical session also included a presentation by the eminent architect Prof. Balkrishna Doshi. He explained the significance of the Bhadra Fort revitalization project for Ahmedabad. Prof. Doshi was of the view that heritage buildings should be made more accessible for the people of the city.

The second technical session comprised of presentations by the representatives of Orissa, Nanded and Madurai. Mr. P.K. Patnaik, Associate Planner, Directorate of Town Planning, Orissa described the heritage initiatives taken up in Puri and Konark. He also put forth the challenges faced in heritage management such as lack of knowledge and clear guidance, incompatible infrastructure, and modern structures appearing to be a threat to heritage structures.



Prof. B.V. Doshi giving a presentation

Mr. Deepak Mhaisekar, Municipal Commissioner, Nanded presented details of the JNNURM funded Godavari Riverfront Project. He also described the historical significance of the city and the religious value of the river stretch. Later, Mr. G. Balaji, Chief Architect, Madurai gave an overview of the heritage development and planning initiatives of the city. He discussed the formation of the City Technical Advisory Group, City Volunteer Technical Corps, and

setting up of the heritage club and consortium to promote heritage activities in Madurai.

Mr. M.P. Vasimalai, Member, NTAG advisory committee outlined the way forward for PEARL. He expressed happiness over the progress made so far by PEARL cities and urged for greater involvement of all stakeholders of the city.

The workshop provided an opportunity to address some of the important issues related to heritage planning and management. The major recommendations that emerged at the workshop are as under:

- PEARL Annual Activity Report should be sent to all JNNURM cities.
- More financial and technical support for activities both at the City level and cluster level under JNNURM-PEARL.
- Existing Community Participation Fund under JNNURM should be linked to Heritage Related Activities.
- Heritage planning and management should be a bottom-up approach and all stakeholders of the city should be included in the process.
- Heritage conservation should be treated as inclusive urban development strategy which includes marginal population and is sensitive towards the whole city.
- PEARL Secretariat should harmonize various guidelines, toolkits prepared for Urban Heritage Management etc. for their better implementation.

Knowledge Network Support Unit

Cities Alliance and NIUA are coming together to provide knowledge support to PEARL through Knowledge Network Support Unit with objectives such as assessing knowledge needs of the network; capacity building of cities to implement reforms and projects; developing the network for horizontal learning; link with national and international networks; and providing inputs for national urban strategy. The Unit for PEARL will build on the MoUD initiative and contribute to making it more effective knowledge-sharing network.

Call for Urban Initiatives

PEARL Update welcomes contributions on initiatives related to urban reforms, best practices, recent happenings relating to JNNURM in different states or ULBs for publication in the newsletter. The Best Practices Format can be downloaded from www.indiaurbanportal.in or www.niua.org

City Volunteer Technical Corps

Under the JNNURM, community participation and disclosure of programmes to the public are key elements. One of the ways to achieve this is through the creation of City Volunteer Technical Corps (CVTC) in cities. CVTCs are envisaged as an integral part of programme implementation at the city level.

Their role will be to advise the city governance team on enlisting community participation in service delivery, help mobilize Community Participation Fund projects, ensure transparency and accountability to citizens in programme implementation of JNNURM and ensuring connectivity between the City Development Plan and Detailed Project Report (DPR). The CVTCs are to be formed in seven areas: urban engineering, urban planning, urban poverty, urban governance, heritage, urban environment and urban financial services.

The guidelines for setting up of CVTCs have been released by the Ministry of Urban Development. This includes enumerating the process for constituting the CVTC by inviting professionals and selecting anchor NGOs; selection criteria for NGOs; logistical support; pattern of funding; and monitoring mechanisms.

Documentation of Best Practices

"Documentation of Best Practices" Vol. 3 has been published, which is an initiative to highlight some of the admirable and creditable work being done by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the Mission Cities. The documentation is expected to serve as a source of learning. The third best practices report covers

success stories of various state ULBs from Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. These Best Practices are structured in

the standard format developed under PEARL. Each best practice covers a brief summary, key dates,

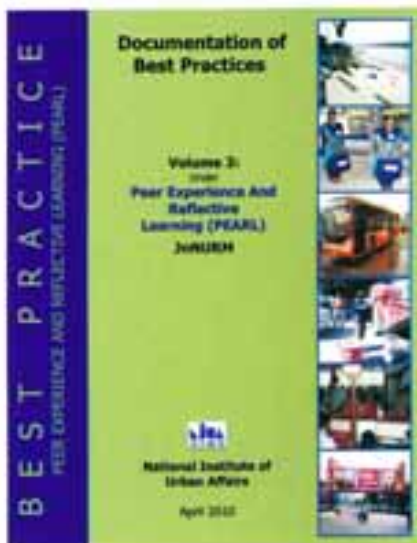
situation before the initiative, the new approach, strategy to develop the initiative, the process, results achieved, sustainability, lessons learnt, recognition and replicability.

The following best practices have been documented in Volume 3:

- Solid Waste Management through Bio-Composting: Puri, Orissa;
- Vending Zones at Bhubaneswar, Orissa;
- Improved Collection and Transportation of Municipal Solid Waste through PPP: Amritsar, Punjab;
- Automated Parking System: Bangalore, Karnataka;
- Fleet Expansion/ Modernization Programmes of City Public Transportation: Bangalore, Karnataka;
- Payroll System in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike: Bangalore, Karnataka;
- GIS for Property Tax in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike: Bangalore, Karnataka;
- Transport Services on PPP Basis: Rajkot, Gujarat;
- Cost effective housing for the Urban Poor: Ahmedabad, Gujarat;
- Mehsana Nagarpalika Initiates PPP for Property Tax Collection: Mehsana, Gujarat;
- Planning to Reduce Impact of Disaster: Surat, Gujarat;
- Fund Your City - A PPP Initiative For Urban Infrastructure Development: Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh;
- Preparation Process for Draft Development Plan: Kolkata, West Bengal;
- Initiatives under Urban Renewal at Nanded Waghala City Municipal Corporation: Nanded, Maharashtra;
- Trade License in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike: Bangalore, Karnataka;
- Water Supply and Sewerage Project, Salt Lake (Sector V): Kolkata, West Bengal;
- Bore Well Automation: Faridabad, Haryana;
- PPP Model for Underground Car Parking System: Kolkata, West Bengal;
- Initiatives for the Urban Poor: Mumbai, Maharashtra; and
- Municipal GIS - Gorakhpur Experience: Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.

There has been an increase in activities on the project front under JNNURM. Success stories of cities which have demonstrated improvement in urban services and financial management have been documented in this report. Two best practices report have already been published under PEARL. The first report covered best practices from a cross-section of categories while the second volume focussed on urban reforms under JNNURM.

The details of the best practices are also available on www.indiaurbanportal.in





Meeting of JNNURM Reform Appraisal Agencies

The Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) and NIUA organized a meeting of JNNURM Reform Appraisal Agencies on April 8, 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to learn from past experiences and to have a common format for review of reforms. It was attended by representatives of MoUD, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, and appraisal agencies viz. NIUA, Administrative Staff College of India, Crisil, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, ICRA Management Consulting Services Ltd., Society for Participatory Research in Asia, among others. Mr. P. K. Srivastava, IAS, JS and Mission Director, JNNURM gave the key note address. Prof. Om Prakash Mathur and Sh. Nitin Gokarn, Director JNNURM also addressed the participants. These agencies will initiate the reform appraisal process from May 2010.



Mr. P.K. Srivastava,
at the meeting

Resource Centre for Communication Materials



NIUA in partnership with the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) has initiated the creation of a knowledge management resource centre. The proposed centre will be a warehouse of communication strategies and materials developed by Urban Local Bodies/water utilities and other associated organisations. It will be hosted on the PEARL website. The warehouse will catalogue audio, visual, and written information, educational and communication material.

TEAM

Coordinator
Vijay Dhar

Editors
Nilanjana Dasgupta Sur
Rommani Sen

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Advisor
Chetan Valdiya

Assistance
Indu Senan

National Institute of Urban Affairs

Core 4B, I&II Floor, India Habitat Centre
Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003
Ph. 011-24627543, Fax: 24617513
Email: niua@niua.org

Website: www.indiaurbanportal.in
NIUA Website: www.niua.org

PEARL Website

www.indiaurbanportal.in



Latest on the website

- More than 1 lakh hits in May 2010
- Cities Ranking on Sanitation 2009-10
- New Best Practices
- Helpdesk for urban queries
- Latest Publications, News & Events

Helpdesk under PEARL

The Urban Resource Link (URL) developed by the Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad provides Help Desk support to PEARL. The URL supports the city managers and associated sector professionals with timely, relevant and quality information. They can also forward queries and access this online database as an urban forum under PEARL. To submit enquiries online please visit the link www.indiaurbanportal.in. Enquiries can also be made via website/email/phone/fax/mail.