The Department of Architecture and Planning at NED University of Engineering and Technology has been actively engaged in urban research and in running several programs in urban regional planning for the past decade. A “Centre for Urban and Regional Planning” (CURP) was established in 2012 with the intention of consolidating the existing works and to develop a national level platform for urban planning professionals in the country. The CURP aims to hold conduct public forums on urban issues, conduct urban research and to publish a bi-annual newsletter.

We are pleased to publish the first issue of the newsletter which attempts to collect and present significant news on the subject. The news items are excerpts selected from the previous six months. They attempt to document the salient developments at the country level with special emphasis on Karachi. The items collected from various sources are analyzed further to forecast possible implications for the profession. Status updates have been included for both government and private planning related organizations and bodies. Key planning projects and programs are also mentioned. The newsletter also includes information on past and future events for the interest of professionals, scholars and students.

We hope that our readers will find the contents over-all useful and will share their valuable opinions and comments.

**URBAN CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**EXTREME RAINY WEATHER CAUSED DAMAGE TO THOUSANDS OF BUILDINGS IN NORTHERN SINDH:**

The 24 years record of rainfall has been broken with 305 millimeters only in Jacobabad Division in September 2012. The major reason for death of hundreds is the destruction of their houses due to heavy rain.


**MONSOON TRIGGERED WIDESPREAD DEVASTATION IN MOEN JO DARO, (THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE) LARKAN SINDH:**

Earlier the Ministry of Culture, Government of Sindh allocated a sum of Three Million Rupees for the protection of Moen Jo Daro from monsoon rains. The methods used were rudimentary and termed ineffective for combatting the extent of rainfall.


**URBAN LAW AND REGULATORY CONTROL**

**BUILDING AND TOWN PLANNING CONTROLS MUST BE ENFORCED IN KARACHI**

In Karachi, a garment factory got burned on 12th September 2012. It brought death and despair to hundreds of families. Enforcement of Building and Town Planning controls may avoid and reduce the high impact of such disasters.

Pakistan’s Biggest Shopping Mall to Become Operational Soon

Islamabad is set to experience a change in shopping trends with the opening of Centaurus mega shopping mall by March 2013.

‘The Centaurus’ is located on first commercial plot of Blue Area extensions in between sectors G-8 and F-8 adjacent to the Faisal Avenue flyover.

The features of the project include two high towers of residential apartments, one tower of office apartments and a 37-storey seven-star hotel.


National Industrial Parks Launches Sargodha Industrial Park

10MW independent power plant will be constructed at Sargodha Industrial Park to provide uninterrupted electricity supply to all the industrial units. The second project of the National Industrial Parks Development and Management Company in Punjab was launched on Tuesday, 18th of December 2012.


North Point Harbor Urban Planning Concept Winning Proposal by Chris Y. H. Chan and Stephanie M. L. Tan

The design for the North Point Waterfront development in Hong Kong China, which won the first prize in the competition, proposes an “organic network” of forms for the site. Designed by Chris Y. H. Chan + Stephanie M. L. Tan, The project approach is based on study of the adjacent “community street” – Chun Yeung Street. In this project, they aim to transform the Chun Yeung St’s urban model as part of an organic ecology.


Planning Function To Be Devolved To Provinces

The government has decided to change the composition of Planning Commission. It intends to induct as members one nominee of each province so as to formulate national plans in line with provincial development and planning priorities.

It was revealed to the media that the decision was taken by the National Economic Council at its recent meeting in the aftermath of devolution of 18 ministries to the provinces under the 18 Amendment.


EVENTS

- 1st - 2nd Jan 2013 Rethinking Urban in Pakistan NEDUET, City campus
- 29th - 31 Jan 2013 Sub-regional Conference on Promoting Innovations in Wastewater Management in Asia and the Pacific, ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines
- 8th - 10 Feb 2013 Sub-regional Workshop on Millennium Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda for South Asia
- 18th - 22 Feb 2013 APEC Financial Regulators Training Initiative Regional Seminar on Technology Risk Supervision
- 30th March 2013 8th Seminar of Urban and Regional Planning at NEDUET, Main Campus.
- 7th Oct 2013 World Habitat Day

City and Planning Department Lahore UET News

A Seminar is scheduled to be held on 14th Jan 2013 at 11:00 AM at UET Lahore. Dr. Douglas Hill from University of Otago New Zealand will give a presentation on “Problems and Prospectus in the socio-spatial transformation of India’s mega cities the example of Kolkata”

WITH ARCHITECT AND PLANNER
ARIF HASAN

HOW CAN URBAN PLANNERS AND ARCHITECTS CONTRIBUTE TO A CITY FOR EVERYONE?

Arif Hasan, a veteran architect and planner based in Karachi was interviewed for this newsletter. He was of the view that, “the major threat for today’s planning is that ecological and social ends are dominated and overtaken by crude market practices. The ground realities are far different from what planning theory indicates in our urban context. The big question before us is that, how can urban planning, urban planners and architects contribute to a city for everyone?”

Explaining this issue he said that “…we need to address this conflict between Planning Theory and Practice by understanding and addressing five main issues i.e. Land, Housing, Transport, Employment, and Culture. As equity and justice are required to sustain a city thus we need to identify and publish the case studies on these issues and a critique on Planning Theory. At a later stage some books may also be published in the newsletter.”

Ref: http://arifhasan.org/

INTERVIEW WITH MR. IFTIKHAR A. KAIM KHANI
MASTER PLAN DEPARTMENT KARACHI METROPOLITAN CORPORATION:
NEWSLETTER MAY FOCUS ON KARACHI AND ASPECTS THAT MAY INTEREST MID-CAREER PLANNING PROFESSIONALS:

Mr. Iftikhar suggested in an interview that, “Karachi must be focused as a main subject of discussion for this newsletter as the immediate context of any publication “is merely important. In his opinion this newsletter may be of much use to mid-career professionals especially those who are working in Public sector. They may be informed about training and other programs offered by regional and global financial bodies such as World Bank, International Monitory Fund and Asian Development Bank etc. In addition, this newsletter may also disseminate funds allocated in different Government sectors and their future programs. Other aspects of possible interest would be urban planning competitions around the world, global planning trends and ideas, urban planning projects and case studies. The cases may outline reasons for their success and failure as well as the tools, techniques, technology and materials used in Planning Projects.

Ref: http://www.kmc.gos.pk/

ARIF HASAN WEBSITE LAUNCHED
Published and unpublished researches of veteran planner Arif Hasan have now been made .it is a veritable source of information on many subjects ranging from development issues to cultural and heritage-specific matters, it also documents images and maps of important areas of Pakistan to the public in the new website

Ref: http://arifhasan.org/

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

RESEARCH

Too many land owning agencies, weak governance, a vast number of unauthorized katchi abadis (informal settlements) and multiple land ownerships are some of the major impediments in the way of resolving Karachi’s land-related problems.

This has been revealed in a latest study titled ‘Karachi: the land issue’. The study, supported by the International Institute for Environment and Development UK, is conceived, designed and edited by Arif Hasan and jointly authored by Arif Hasan, Mansoor Raza and the Urban Research and Development Cell, NED University Karachi’s Prof Dr Noman Ahmed, Assoc Prof Asiya Sadiq and Assistant Prof Saeeduddin Ahmed.


PUBLICATIONS

1. From Micro-finance to the Building of Local Institutions The Origins and Evolution of the Micro-credit Programme of the OPP’s Orangi Charitable Trust, Karachi, Pakistan

2. Migration and Small Towns in Pakistan

The two books have been authored by Arif Hasan and Mansoor Raza, respectively.

AKHTAR HAMEED’S SERVICES

RECALLED AT LAUNCH OF TWO BOOKS

Karachi, Dec 11: Speakers at the launch of two books held at the NED University of Engineering and Technology on Tuesday paid tribute to the late activist and social scientist Akhtar Hameed Khan and praised his good work for poor communities in the country.

Published by the Oxford University Press, the books were coauthored by architect and planner, activist, teacher and social researcher Arif Hasan and deputy director of the Advocacy and Research, Church World Service Pakistan/Afghanistan Mansoor Raza.

Ref: http://dawn.com/2012/12/12/akhtar-hameeds-services-recalled-at-launch-of-two-books/
SINDH BOARD OF INVESTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SINDH IDENTIFIED LAND FOR VARIOUS SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES:

The land for developing Fisheries Special Economic Zone measuring 20,000 acres has already been identified in District Thatta. The Board of Investment (BOR) will finance 20 farms (25 hectares each) in the 1st phase.

The land for developing livestock special economic zone measuring 2,500 acres has been identified near Bham bore by Livestock Department, Government of Sindh in collaboration with Sindh Board of Investment.

The Government of Sindh has earmarked 2000 acres of land for International Special Economic Zone, near Port Qasim industrial area, 50 Kms from Karachi Airport. International Special Economic Zone (ISEZ) will include an Expatriate Enclave with modern infrastructure and tax incentive package such as exemption of custom duties and Taxes strictly on import of capital equipment. SBI will act as one window facilitator for the project and the Federal Government/Utility Agencies will provide gas, electricity and other utilities at the zero point of the zone. The Federal and the Provincial Governments are engaged with Japanese Government to finalize arrangements for the infrastructure development.
Ref: [http://www.sbi.gos.pk/international-special-economic-zone.php](http://www.sbi.gos.pk/international-special-economic-zone.php)

SINDH CITIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM:
An urban policy and strategic planning unit (The Urban Unit) is being established under Sindh Cities Improvement Program to provide urban planning and policy support for urban development in Sindh.
Ref: [http://scip.gos.pk/urbanunits_about.html](http://scip.gos.pk/urbanunits_about.html)

RAPID BUS SYSTEM TO BE INTRODUCED IN PROVINCIAL CAPITAL:
According to KMC administrator on a JICA sponsored visit to Bangkok, Thailand, in his meeting with investors said the population of Karachi is estimated to turn 27.6 million by 2020 and 31.6 million by 2035. This population growth, he said is already having its implications on transport sector with traffic management turning into a serious issue. In response to that, Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) envisages developing bus rapid system on two identified corridors of Karachi.
Ref: [http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=157819](http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=157819)

NFC AWARD & AFTER
A National Finance Commission Award that is based on the division of resources agreed upon between the federation and its units.

The award entails the revision of the formula for distribution of resources in the divisible pool both vertically as well as horizontally. The share of the federation has been reduced and that of the federal units increased. In addition to population (the sole basis for determining a province’s share earlier), three new indicators for horizontal distribution of resources have been adopted — poverty/backwardness, revenue collection/generation and inverse population density. Baluchistan’s percentage share of the divisible pool will increase and that of other provinces decrease, the margin of decrease being highest in the case of Punjab.

UPDATES ON SECURE HOUSING PROGRAMME BY OPP
The Orangi Pilot Project – Research and Training Institute continued its support to the widespread peripheral settlements in the Goths (villages) in Karachi. Advocacy, training in mapping, assistance for the social activists to come together and mobilisation have been some of the common attributes in this regard.

During the period of (July 2012-Sep 2012) also, the contacts were maintained, meetings were held with the Chief Ministers Coordinator for the Sindh Government, BOR officials, Secretary and members of the government and “Goths lease committee”. There was coordination and exchange of maps and information to facilitate the process of tenure security for the remaining 1,110 Goths.