PRESS RELEASE

9th Seminar on Urban and Regional Planning
“Housing for All”
Saturday, 29th March 2014
Main Auditorium, NED University Main Campus,
University Road, Karachi-75270

The Ninth Seminar on Urban and Regional Planning was held on 29th March, 2013 at NED University of Engineering and Technology, Main Campus, Karachi. The event was organized by the Department of Architecture and Planning of the University. The theme of the seminar was “Housing For All”. After Tilawat Professor Dr. Noman Ahmed, Chairman, Department of Architecture and Planning welcomed the delegates. He gave brief background of the past seminars and intellectual output generated from each event.

Professor Yap Kioe Sheng (Honourary Professor of Housing in the City and Regional Planning Department Cardiff University in Wales) was the Keynote speaker. His address was titled as “The Right to Adequate Housing for All”. He recommended to realize the right to adequate housing, governments should adopt pro-active policies rather than leave low-income housing to the (informal) market. They should intervene through urban planning, allocate land and support low-income housing production.

Brig Mohammad Abdullah, Administrator DHA, Karachi was the chief guest on the occasion. In his speech he shared his experiences with the audience.

Prof. Dr. Sarosh Hashmat Lodi, Dean Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture, NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi, gave the presiding remarks. He appreciated the Department of Architecture and Planning for conducting these seminars in a regular manner.
Sayyeda Najia Zaidi, Lecturer, Department of Architecture and Planning NED University offered vote of thanks.

The first technical session was chaired by Prof. Dr. Mir Shabbar Ali, Chairman, Urban and Infrastructural Engineering Department, NED University. The session started by sponsors presentation. The papers presented in this session included both international and local authors. These included Professor Alison Brown, Professor of Urban Planning and International Development, Course Director for the MSc in International Planning and Development, Cardiff University in Wales who presented her paper on two urban myths, first that the invisible workforce in home-based enterprises are incidental in housing policy, and second that slum economies contribute little to urban economic development. Both myths were challenged in this paper. Mr. Atta-ur-Rehman, Research Assistant of Dr. Nasir Javed, CEO – The Urban Unit Punjab, talked about role of having a sound system of urban land records and titling system, as one of the key factors in mortgage finance. Christophe Polack & Asiya Sadiq Polack, Visiting Professor KU Leuven, Gent/Brussels and Vie Universities, Brussels (VUB) & Architect Urban Planner/Designer Associate Professor at DAP-NEDUET, Karachi. PhD candidate and Part time faculty at KU Leuven, Belgium. Their paper was based on Karachi’s Nallahs as pedestrian networks.

The panel discussion comprised expert comments from Mr. Arif Hasan, Chairman OPP, Mr. Haris Gazder, Director and Senior Researcher Collective for Social Science Research, Karachi, Mr. Farhan Anwar, Director Projects, Sustainable Initiatives and Mr. Nooruddin Ahmed from Institute of Engineers Pakistan.

The second technical session was chaired by Prof. Yap Kioe Sheng, (Honourary Professor of Housing in the City and Regional Planning Department Cardiff University in Wales). Mr. Saeduddin Ahmed, Assistant Professor, NED University, PhD Scholar Cardiff University presented his paper was titled “Dominance of private sector in the provision of housing in Karachi, and its impact on right to housing for the poor “. Other presenters were, Mr. Hafiz Rashid, Incharge Saiban Lahore, Brig. Mohammad Rafique and Mr. Arif Usmani, (Project Director DHA City and Chief Consultant Planner) Architect Yawar Abbas Jilani, Principle Architect ARCOP Associates and Architect Rabia Siddiqui, Assistant Professor Dawood University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi. Panelists for this session comprised Mr. M.
Fazal Noor, Senior Development Professional, Architect Fariha Amjad Ubaid, Associate Professor NED University and Mr. Tasneem Siddiqui, Former Chief Secretary Govt. of Sindh and Chairman, Saiban - Action Research for Shelter. Prof. Dr. Noman Ahmed, Chairman, Department of Architecture and Planning, NED University summed up the seminar session.

Momentoes were presented to all speakers and panelist by the University.

Dr. Noman Ahmed  
Professor and Chairman