

বিশ্ব নগর পরিকল্পনা দিবস ২০০৯

বাসযোগ্য বসতির জন্য পরিকল্পনা

৮ই নভেম্বর ২০০৯

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BANGLADESH INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS

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স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তর

URBAN PARTNERSHIPS FOR POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAMME (UPPRP)



বাণী

বাংলাদেশ ইনস্টিটিউট অব প্লানার্স ও ইউএনডিপি এর উদ্যোগে বিশ্বের অন্যান্য দেশের নায়করা বাংলাদেশে ৮ নভেম্বর ২০০৯ 'বিশ্ব নগর পরিকল্পনা দিবস' পালিত হচ্ছে যেনে আমি আনন্দিত।

সভ্যতার ক্রমবিকাশ ও জীবনযাত্রার মানোন্নয়নের সাথে সাথে মানুষ আজ নগরযুগে হচ্ছে। বাংলাদেশের মতো উন্নয়নশীল ও জনসংখ্যাগত দাপ্তরিক পরিকল্পিত নগরায়ন অত্যন্ত জরুরী বলে আমি মনে করি। সুশিক্ষিত নগরায়ন দেশের সমগ্রিক উন্নয়নে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা হিসেবে কাজ করে। শ্রেষ্ঠিক বিশ্ব নগর পরিকল্পনা দিবস-২০০৯ এর প্রতিপাদ্য "Planning for Livable Communities" অর্থ "বাসযোগ্য বসতির জন্য পরিকল্পনা" হয়েছে বলে আমি মনে করি। কোন নির্দিষ্ট শহরবর্তীক না হয়ে সুশিক্ষিত নগরায়ন দেশব্যাপী পড়ে উঠুক এ প্রত্যাশা করি।

আমি বিশ্ব নগর পরিকল্পনা দিবস ২০০৯ এর সার্বিক সাফল্য কামনা করি।
মোনা হাফিজ, বাংলাদেশ চিফ অফিসার

মোঃ জিহুর রহমান



গুডেভা বাণী



আয়োজক: আব্দুল মান্নান খান
প্রতিমন্ত্রী
গৃহায়ন ও গণপূর্ত মন্ত্রণালয়
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

আজ বিশ্ব নগর পরিকল্পনা দিবস। পৃথিবীর অন্যান্য দেশের নায়করা বাংলাদেশেও স্বাধীনতা, স্বাধীনতা ও স্বাধীনতার সাথে নিকট পালিত হচ্ছে। নিকট উদ্যোগের জন্য আমি বাংলাদেশে ইনস্টিটিউট অব প্লানার্স এবং ইউএনডিপি, বাংলাদেশের অর্থিক দাবিদার জ্ঞান করছি।
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বাণী



বিশ্বনগর পরিকল্পনা দিবস

পৃথিবীর অন্যান্য দেশের নায়করা বাংলাদেশেও স্বাধীনতা, স্বাধীনতা ও স্বাধীনতার সাথে নিকট পালিত হচ্ছে। নিকট উদ্যোগের জন্য আমি বাংলাদেশে ইনস্টিটিউট অব প্লানার্স এবং ইউএনডিপি, বাংলাদেশের অর্থিক দাবিদার জ্ঞান করছি।

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PLANNING FOR LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

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Dr. Ishtiaq Islam, Member, Bangladesh Institute of Planners

The World Town Planning Day theme of this year "Planning for Livable Communities," is a very appropriate one, because countries around the world are increasingly becoming urbanized. Many communities will continue to experience rapid urbanization with negative consequences of overcrowding, poverty, poor housing and death of services. Most countries will also be experiencing the effects of climate change, resource depletion, food insecurity, population growth, economic and political instability and these effects will be felt more in the developing countries as most of them are ill-equipped and lack resources to deal these colossal problems. The aim of the World Town Planning Day is to raise awareness to improve urban planning to deal with major challenges of the 21st century.

The Scenario of Bangladesh and the Need for Reform Our experiences of present urban communities are more of slums and squatter settlements, congested streets, accumulating wastes, polluted air and contaminated land and waterways, and also of increasing informality, crime, drug-peddling, and contagious diseases. High growth rate of cities due migration of rural poor, traffic havoc, fast disappearance of water bodies, open spaces, parks and playgrounds are turning cities into meaningless places, and as a result, inhabitants have withdrawn into their own and limited world. People forced to sedentary and indoor living style, also do not have any feeling for their communities or cities. Researches indicate that such communities rather sustain ill-health, obesity, crime and various unwanted urban pathos.

Many Asian countries like Malaysia, Singapore have paid immense attention to improve living condition of people by addressing housing and transport problems. The principal objective set in the Malaysian Total Planning and Development Guidelines (2001) was: *Creating a Balance between Physical Development and Human Development in terms of Spiritual and Noble Universal Values for the Sustainable Progress of the Country.* Planners always give emphasis on creation livable community. If the city is to be functional and livable, the various components or units of the city should be functional. They also believe that good housing represents the foundation for creating happy families and a harmonious and stable society. Residential communities provided facilities to enhance the quality of the living environment and which consequently improved the quality of life of the people.

The Problems of Existing Communities in Bangladesh Most problems evident in Bangladesh are similar to those seen in the 19th century industrialized countries. It is indeed unfortunate that policy makers and city managers have hardly learnt any lesson from the developed world in order to mitigate these problems common to all big cities.

Increasing number of people seeking accommodation: The endless streams of people migrating to the cities that need to be accommodated overwhelm existing communities and their capacity to provide adequate services. But in case of Dhaka and other big cities of the country, it has to be kept in mind that the growth of population is actually the growth of poor migrated population.

Poor living environments: Limited practice of planning standards: Only a few communities are planned, but most of them are unplanned with the existence of a large number of sub-standard communities (slums and squatter settlements). Even the planned communities have poor living environments and services and amenities are sparingly or not provided at all. A major share of buildings of Dhaka and other big cities violated the "Building By-Laws" and failed to attain necessary safety measures to address fire and other hazards. In most of the communities there is severe scarcity of open space, park and playground.

Gigantism and loss of control: People have less sense of control over the changes that are shaping the environmental conditions surrounding their homes, the fast changing tranquil neighbourhoods and communities growing crowded, rowdy and unfriendly. Dhanmondi is an eye soaring example of a death of a tranquil urban residential area in the hands of land owners, developers, decision makers and commercial entrepreneurs. Open spaces, greeneries in front of the residential plots where kids used to play are now paved platforms for cars.

Traffic congestion: Increasing urbanization has led to the destruction of much of our heritage and historic places. As a result, the young generations have lost their sense of belonging of the place as well as pride for that place. Dhaka has already lost precious heritage sites, like Shakhia Nidhi House, part of Balda Garden and many others, like Ruplal House, Shakhaz Bazar area on the way to destruction. Loss of wetlands of Dhaka is a widely discussed topic but till today no fruitful attempt has been undertaken to save precious wetlands of Dhaka. A good number of legal documents are available to protect water bodies of the country. The urban expansion of Dhaka Metropolitan Area resulted in the considerable reduction of wetlands, cultivated land, and vegetation and water bodies. The study of Islam (2009) has identified that yearly loss of wetland during 1999-2005 period was 1,922 hectare/year. In the context of climate change, these wetlands can play significant role to address urban flooding.

Apathy to culture and microclimate: There has been gradual shift from vernacular and traditional designs to more western design that is totally unsuited for a semi-tropical and humid climate. The current trends in building design are not suited to dissipate heat or humidity, thus the increasing need for artificial ventilation and cooling, consequently giving rise to high energy use and environmental warming and pollutions. Building spacing and height/best is also an important factor in Bangladesh in view of the high precipitation level.

Features of Livable Communities: A livable community can be expressed as communities where people of all ages, income and abilities can live in relative comfort families and friends. This means well-managed communities with environments relatively free from all perceived and known danger and nuisances, such as through traffic, overcrowding, air pollution, noise, dirt, wastes, unwelcome intrusions, etc. The goals of livable communities are few compared to the problems they produced when not planned or designed properly. The essential features of livable communities are-

* Compact in nature with a comfortable higher density.
* Compact development approach required to be adopted to ensure optimum utilization of land and other resources. Compact development can significantly reduce travel distance and thus environmental pollution. Commercial facilities to cater daily necessities required to be located within the walking distance. Housing choices have to include various income groups. The community should inspire people to walk rather use cars or buses for short distance travels.

* Attractive public places:
* A resilient community:
* A community must be resilient to cope with any natural or man made disaster. Particularly, in case of Bangladesh, consequences of climate change demand special attention in any development plan. In case of Dhaka, urban flooding and heat are the major impacts due to climate change. To address urban flood, necessary areas required to be dedicated for storm water retention. Adequate amount of open space, trees and water bodied can reduce heat stress.

Interventions towards a livable community
* **Implementation of plan:** Since the era of Patrick Geddes planners are preparing plans to ensure better living environment. All these plans had visions and goals towards a sustainable community. But in case of Bangladesh, implementation of plan is limited. Planning has its sorrows when ideas are not put to use. It is expected that DAP would uphold the policies stated in DMDP and ensure conservation of flood plains, agricultural and would provide appropriate planning standards for community facilities and services for residents of Dhaka.

* **Lack of good governance and accountability:** Good governance is the corner stone of plan implementation, operation and maintenance of urban communities. Immediate steps required to be taken to reorganize existing structure of regulatory bodies responsible for development of urban areas of Bangladesh. Lack of transparency and accountability has not only created problems for the residential communities, but other parties of cities too. People's participation in planning process is mandatory. The vision of communities requires to be developed with active participation of local people. They must be aware of every detail of the plan.

* **Taxation Policy:** Property taxation policies are a widely used to regulate and guide development. A number of taxation measures are applied to control land speculation, such as higher tax on vacant urban land, land ceiling, inheritance tax etc. Radical program is required to revise our property taxation policy. Taxation measures can also be adopted to discourage car ownership.

* **No more allocation of land for new application of FAR:** Very recently Floor Area Ratio approach has been adopted to regulate building size and height. We have to keep in mind that the positive impacts of FAR can only be felt on large parcels of land rather than small 5 or 10 katha plot in the prevailing built up areas. Allocation of plot both by private developers and public sector would only ensure the replication of the congested built up areas of present Dhaka in future on virgin lands of the city. Large scale housing projects with higher density, leaving ample space for community facilities and open spaces can bring positive change to our cityscape.

While planning for livable community we must remember the words of famous planner Norman Krumholtz who said "Provide more choices to those who have few". We must focus on people of every strata of society and should not let the machine and technology shape our life and life style. We still has the scope for planning livable communities in the newly developed areas and also in the areas, where presently land use transformation is going on in an unplanned way.

Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction Programme

Developing tools for pro-poor town planning

The Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction Programme (or UPPRP) is the largest urban poverty programme in Bangladesh, and one of the largest in the world. The DFID-funded, LGED-implemented, UNDP-assisted UPPRP Programme is supporting the formulation of policies and implementation of strategies that can respond to Bangladesh's urban population that is growing at an estimated 3.6 percent per year, is about 43 percent is poor and extreme. UPPRP covers 30 City Corporations and Municipal Areas. Improved pro-poor urban planning is one of the strategies deployed by the Programme. To date the Programme has developed, tested, and implemented several planning tools that will lead to improved planning. These tools are: (i) settlement mapping; (ii) land inventories; (iii) homeless-persons identification and mapping; (iv) well-being assessment; and (v) community action planning.

Settlement mapping
Settlement Mapping (SM) is the first step in pro-poor planning and involves several tasks. The purpose is to identify, map, categorize, and rank all low income settlements according to an index of sixteen indicators. Community leaders are trained to participate into and lead the major impacts due to climate change. To address urban flood, necessary areas required to be dedicated for storm water retention. Adequate amount of open space, trees and water bodied can reduce heat stress.

Land Inventories (LI) are the second step. The purpose is to identify and characterize vacant land that may provide opportunities for medium and short-term development for poor households. The process is similar to settlement mapping. Community leaders are trained to identify vacant lands suitable for housing, and a ward and block based field work is undertaken. Land use inventory is a simple data sheet and the location of the land is marked on the map. In Gopalganj, our teams have identified 55 vacant land parcels which may be suitable for housing. SM and LI are simple planning tools. But their impact on poverty reduction is multiplied by the fact that after communities use these tools, they can better plan their settlements and bargain for their right to secure tenure, and participate in the city development process.

Homeless-persons identification and mapping
Very rarely do government and planners take homeless people into account when planning and implementing development programmes and project. For example, the only survey of the urban 'floating' population in Bangladesh towns was done by the Bureau of Statistics in 1997, and none has since. Therefore, in order to begin to plan for the homeless, UPPRP designed and initiated homeless-person mapping and data base. The results of this survey will be used to inform the town level strategy for homeless populations; to identify and target this population for initiatives under the project and by its partners; and for policy development. The participatory method involves counting the homeless people at night and early morning. A wide range of stakeholders of the town are engaged in different phases of the survey. It begins with a town level stakeholders workshop under the chairmanship of the Mayor to explain the survey purpose, encourage Pounshahs participation, and seek the cooperation of the stakeholders in conducting the survey in their wards. It is followed by a ward level stakeholders meeting to seek their help in identifying specific locations of the homeless poor and identifying key informants.

The town team facilitates the survey teams, comprising community leaders and community volunteers, to divide the wards into 3 to 5 blocks that are demarcated by the local physical features or other important landmarks. It then conducts the survey with a team of two persons for each block. The town team then tabulates the data, shares it with ward level stakeholders, gets it signed by the ward councilor, puts the findings on the town map and finally gets it signed by the Mayor in a town level workshop to share the data with stakeholders, including media.

Well-being assessment (WBA) of the settlements – has been started in all towns that have formed Community Development Committees (CDCs). Results are reported for 13 towns in 322 CDCs (158 of which have produced readable maps locating all households) covering over 80,000 households. Another 66 WBAs are in process. Preliminary findings are that extreme poor, poor, and non-poor households comprising 31, 51, and 20 percent of the total respectively. Female-headed households, which comprise 7% of the total, are more likely to be extreme poor (50%) and poor (39%). Households with disabled members, comprising 2%, are also more likely to be extreme poor (43%) and poor (42%). Primary group member households, at 39% of the total, have higher percentage of extreme poor than do non-PG members (25% vs 19%), and a higher percentage of poor (59% vs 56%). Across towns, the percentages of

extreme poor vary significantly from a low of 8% to a high of 28%, as do the percentages poor, from a low of 27% to a high of 80%. Note that the PG members vary from a low of 5% to a high of 35%. The findings of the WBA are used by the Programme and community: (i) to prioritize which communities to target and determine the level of intervention required; (ii) to set a baseline against which the change in economic status of households can be measured; (iii) to provide a universe of all households from which a sample can randomly be selected for randomized household surveys and with which to triangulate the findings of household surveys; and (iv) to provide information on which to plan particular infrastructure and services.

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বাণী

পৃথিবীকে পরিকল্পিত ও মানুষের বাসযোগ্য হিসেবে গড়ে তোলার প্রত্যয় নিয়ে বিশ্বের অন্যান্য দেশের নায়করা বাংলাদেশে ৮ নভেম্বর ২০০৯ 'বিশ্ব নগর পরিকল্পনা দিবস' পালিত হচ্ছে যেনে আমি আনন্দিত।

সভ্যতার ক্রমবিকাশ ও জীবনযাত্রার মানোন্নয়নের সাথে সাথে মানুষ আজ নগরযুগে হচ্ছে। বাংলাদেশের মতো উন্নয়নশীল ও জনসংখ্যাগত দাপ্তরিক পরিকল্পিত নগরায়ন অত্যন্ত জরুরী বলে আমি মনে করি। সুশিক্ষিত নগরায়ন দেশের সমগ্রিক উন্নয়নে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা হিসেবে কাজ করে। শ্রেষ্ঠিক বিশ্ব নগর পরিকল্পনা দিবস-২০০৯ এর প্রতিপাদ্য "Planning for Livable Communities" অর্থ "বাসযোগ্য বসতির জন্য পরিকল্পনা" হয়েছে বলে আমি মনে করি। কোন নির্দিষ্ট শহরবর্তীক না হয়ে সুশিক্ষিত নগরায়ন দেশব্যাপী পড়ে উঠুক এ প্রত্যাশা করি।
আমি বিশ্ব নগর পরিকল্পনা দিবস-২০০৯ এর সার্বিক সাফল্য কামনা করছি।
মোনা হাফিজ, বাংলাদেশ চিফ অ