

Workshop on Future of Cities

July 19th , 2013

Summing up

Complexity of Challenges

- Recognise that
 - Urbanization is the key to economic growth
 - Urban development has to be in consonance with regional decentralised development
 - Heritage and human aspirations and ecology have to be taken into account in development
 - Economy, ecology, social patterns, formal informal transactions creates contests and opposing impulses and problematise planning

In Search of Solutions

Key Lesson-

- Planning is important for both greenfield and brown-field cities, for inclusive and progressive cities.
- Convergence of initiatives, and perspectives- that bring together concerns of disparate communities, and fragile biotic resource base to evolve sustainable habitat frameworks and humane empathic processes of development planning
- Evolving from sector strategy compartmentalisation and binaries like people Vs technology towards a Design thinking for cities.
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Opportunities, present and ahead

- Considerable effort in terms of research in urban sciences and engineering, Urban management, and habitat studies in Knowledge institutions: IITS, IIMs, SPAS, TISS, NID (C-USE, IITB; C-UDD, IITR; C-SD, IITH; COHS, TISS)
- Encouraging innovations by : low cost housing IITM, Solar Decathlon, IITB
- Need for institutional networks to evolve multi-disciplinary strategies
- Need to work closely with major programmes that seek to leverage urban transformation- JNNURM, DMRC, to take research challenges/curriculum design from live contexts and vice versa to transfer technology for informed decisions
- Marry Technology with citizen centric, participatory and democratic processes to evolve sustainable designs

Key Areas

- Research intensively on *physical and social issues* in an integrated (user centric) perspective.
 - Smart materials
 - Energy
 - Water
 - Affordable housing
 - Transportations
 - Waste management
 - Sensors
 - Public Health
 - Vulnerability/disaster proneness
 - Densification
 - Needs of the Blurred borders of rural /urban : small/middle towns.
- Big data and sensor data fusion is important for smart cities



Quick Next steps

- -Refine this dialogue to make it more precise through more focused interactions: with JNNURM and DMIC
- Capacity development:
 - Short term executive programmes –land, housing sustainable architecture, multiple knowledge resources
 - Compendium of appropriate technologies
 - Skilling
 - Projectisation, data analysis.
 - Integrated, multi-disciplinary planning.
 - Decentralised Planning
- Joint research projects with multi-disciplinarity of approach addressing live problems. Look locally, enable National agendas.
- Evaluations and case studies and policy for a critical knowledge base to inform policy
- Cell in MHRD to coordinate efforts; support for collaborative research projects.



And steps that can follow

- More interdisciplinary centres for urban planning in IITs/IIMs/SPAs
- Credit Transfers among different institutions for more integrated cognition
- Habitat resource centre
- Urban observatory
- South south collaboration-where poverty and human development challenges are major issues

