REPORT ON SAUDI URBAN FORUM 2016
Under the theme of Modern Trends on Urban Planning

29-31 March 2016
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INTRODUCTION
Over the decades, Saudi Arabia has been experiencing a rapid urban growth particularly in major cities as a result of natural and social population growth throughout the country. Today, numbers of cities, towns and villages in Saudi Arabia has reached more than 260, and the country has been facing a number of new urban challenges to achieve sustainable urban development, urban economy and urban management.

To respond to these modern urban challenges, Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and UN-Habitat jointly established a programme titled “The Future Saudi Cities Programme” aiming at responding emerging urban challenges by revisiting urban policies and legislations; supporting institutional capacity development; and empowering people’s engagement, particularly youth and women.

During the period on 29-31 March 2016, the first national urban forum of Saudi Arabia is jointly hosted by UN-Habitat and the Government as one of achievement of the Future Saudi Cities Programme towards the Third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development called “HABITAT III,” which will be hosted in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016.

HABITAT III in October 2016 has the convening power to bring together all actors to overcome urban challenges. Solutions for the complex challenge of urbanization can only be found by bringing together Member States, multilateral organizations, local governments, private sector and civil society.

Under the leadership of UN-Habitat, it is important to rethink about the urban agenda in order to embrace urbanization at all levels of human settlements, more appropriate policies that can embrace urbanization across physical space, bridging urban, peri-urban and rural areas, and assist governments in addressing challenges through national and local development policy frameworks. It is also important to think how SDGs will be supported through sustainable urban growth through New Urban Agenda.

For the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Urban Forum has brought opportunities to discuss key challenges of urbanization in the country by showcasing and examining global experience and practices on sustainable urbanization. I am confident that the forum will feed new ideas and solutions for the complex urbanization toward the future that can also provide remarkable contribution for shaping New Urban Agenda through HABITAT III.
OPENING SESSION
The deputy Minister started his speech by welcoming the Minister of MOMRA and the UN-HABITAT Executive Director, and all the participants in the forum.

He also mentioned that many countries around the world are facing different challenges to meet the requirements for the rapid urbanization and the proportion of the population living in urban areas, which has become one of the most important challenges of development in the 21st century. Saudi Arabia is one of the top countries in urbanization rates, increasing the level of urbanization by nearly 33% between 1970 and 2010, the number jumped cities (58) city in 1970 to (285) city 2015.

However, this rapid urbanization accompanied by some of the challenges including (concentration of population in major urban centers and continuous increase in the cost of providing, operating and maintaining the facilities and services in cities and higher energy consumption and its attendant increase pollution, traffic jams, and the lack of agricultural land).

To face these challenges and changes, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs has embarked the revision of the planning process for cities in line with the global trends.

MOMRA has started several new programs in the field urban planning and program them (Future of Saudi Cities Program) in collaboration with the (UN-HABITAT), which aims to Provide the best urban environment for Saudi cities, Reduce the phenomenon of urban spread and treatment of urban expansion, Building partnerships for better urban development, and raise the level of institutional and technical capacities in the ministry and secretariats in the field of urban development planning and management in a sustainable manner

Dr. Abdulrahman referred to the importance of Youth &Women’s participation in the activities of this forum to contribute to highlight the aspirations of urban development, through specialized sessions discussing their needs and their role in the development of their cities. as this forum is coming as an event for “the future of the Saudi cities” program and one of the preparatory steps for the Kingdom’s participation in the “The Habitat 3” conference which will start in October 2016.

In this forum the committee was keen to choose the theme of “new trends in urban planning” in addition to panel discussions and workshops with partner’s regions councils and municipal councils, universities and civil society institutions. plus a high discussion panel of experts and professionals and academics from both within and outside the Kingdom, over three days, and nine scientific sessions discussed topics action include Modern trends in urban planning, Principles of urban transformation, Experiences in the planning and management of urban transformations, Future of urban planning, Best local practices in urban transformation, Legislation, and Urban governance.

The deputy Minister finished his speech by saying “I would like to thank His Excellency the Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs to support the idea of Forum since its inception, and my fellow committee members forum and all the sponsors of Forum for their contribution to us in achieving the objectives we have through the organization, and also those who attended and participated with us, wishing to achieve a better future for our cities”.
Dr. Clos started his speech by welcoming the high board and participants, he expressed his great pleasure to participate in the first Saudi Urban Forum which comes at a crucial moment of the global debate on urbanisation as Habitat III is happening in October this year.

He also mentioned that the urbanization is a solution tool for sustainable development which is adopted in the 2030 Agenda, as the world now is looking forward to invest in policies and strategies that maximize the benefits of good urbanisation in a sustainable manner.

Dr. Clos defined the Future Saudi Cities program as a responding to the emerging urban challenges in the Kingdom without leaving behind women and youth. He also explained the program framework which goes through revising urban policies and legislations, defining a National Urban Policy, reviewing urban planning system and institutions, and investing in an enhanced urban economy and municipal finance model.

He added, KSA has an extraordinary potential to become a role model for the Habitat III in October 2016, and the SDG 11 which was adopted in December 2015 in Cairo. And also for the New Urban Agenda which meant to contribute to the provision of a set of strategies that could help in tackling the primary urban challenges.

In the end of his speech, Dr. Clos said “Let us build a better future for the upcoming generations, investing in a National Urban Policy, in good legislation, good design, adequate municipal finances, public land readjustment and planned city extensions”.

The Minister started his speech by welcoming the participants on behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs.

Dr. Abdullatif mentioned that the Saudi cities are now witnessing urban transformation during its rapid urbanization, like the horizontal spread of cities, the concentration of activities, services, population and economic in major urban centers. Which put high pressure on the infrastructure, service facilities, traffic congestion and environmental pollution. These challenges are requiring a development of appropriate programs to deal with it and develop solution methods such as harmonize and rationalize and control urban development, diversifying population densities and regulate land use in cities, Provide public transport, Urban rehabilitation of city centers and slums, strengthen the role of community participation in urban development and building partnerships with different organizations in the public and private sectors, and finally the Rehabilitation and construction of the municipal building and technical use in urban development management.

Mr. Minister also indicated that MOMRA is fully aware of the challenges facing Saudi cities, that’s why it embarked on a number of programs to deal with these challenges, including:

- Update planning systems list,
- The National Spatial Strategy to support the balanced urban development in the Kingdom of renovation, Application of the principles of spatial development in the management of cities, review and update of urban transport planning systems, strengthen the human dimension in municipal work, and enhance social participation.

In conclusion, I hope that your discussions contributes to come up with proposals and recommendations to support and achieve the ministry orientations for a better future to the Kingdom’s cities to become more sustainable and attractive to live and work.

The minister ended his speech by saying “Thanks to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and colleagues in the organizing committee and all participants from inside and outside the Kingdom, and wish you all success”.

Minister of MOMRA

Dr. Abdullatif Al AlShaikh
Minister of MOMRA
1 The first session on “NEW TRENDS IN URBAN PLANNING”
Objective of the session

Since the 1970s, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been experiencing a rapid urban growth particularly in major cities as a result of rapid population growth in the country. In consequence, number of cities, towns and villages has reached more than 260, four times of that in 1970’s, and the Government has been facing number of challenges to achieve sustainable urban development, economy and management.

To respond the challenges the Government has been taking number of actions including development of new residential area, installment of public transports and improvement of public spaces. On the other hand, it is recognized that urban planning (master planning and strategic planning) should take stronger role to achieve compact and sustainable city.

Given that, the first session of the forum is to examine global experience and good practices on “Livable City” and “Smart City”; and debate the roles of urban planning as well as strategic project implementation including urban regeneration. The following speakers introduced new trends in urban planning:

Speakers:

Mr. Aw Tuan KEE  
Director at the Centre for Livable Cities, Ministry of National Development, Singapore

Eng. Ibrahim AL-SULTAN  
Mayor of Riyadh Region

Dr. Philippe BOUVIER  
Founder and Managing Partner of Urban Value Creation consulting, France

Dr. Piotr LORENS  
Vice President of the International Society of City and Regional Planners, Poland
Key issues raised by the presenters

1) Urban Transformations Planning Toward a Sustainable Future

In the process of the evolution on urban planning in Singapore, the country had experienced a severe rapid urbanization during the period of 1950-60s that brought numbers of urban challenges. Currently, the Government of Singapore has been drafting Sustainable Development Plan (Blue Print Plan) in line with the preparation of the National Report for the Third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III).

The Government of Singapore underlined that having and sharing one clear-cut vision can be a strong engine of urban transformation in the process of drafting development plan. In Singapore set a common vision as “livable, vibrant and sustainable city with engaging in active community”.

To achieve the vision, the Government of Singapore set Livability Framework under the structure of urban planning. The framework integrates three key elements including “high quality of life”, “competitive economy and sustainable environment together with integrated master planning” and “importance of coordination mechanisms for dynamic urban governance”.

2) How to create value in Smart and Sustainable Cities

Smart City has been identified by the key elements including “ICT-BASED” and “Partnership” those which contribute toward increasing the value of city. The fundamental issue to be raised for achieving Smart City is importance of 1) accurate and updated spatial and statistic information; 2) research analysis contributes to identify policy directions; and 3) innovative ideas and technologies as a vehicles to achieve smart and sustainable city.

Creating a value of city is brought by 1) optimizing investment through integration of systems, 2) selection of relevant smart technologies its intelligent architecture, and 3) urban planning solution as a guideline of Smart City.

The methodology in achieving Smart City also depends on the revenue generation. For instance, the new revenue would be brought by providing innovative urban services and utilizing valuable urban information (the information that includes business data).

It is also underlined that cooperation and coordination of stakeholders, investors and governments can contribute to create values. This will enhance the resource management, number of inhabitants participating, demand management with positive impact on increasing quality of service and city attractiveness in general. It will also minimize the energy use, decrease pollution and the number of people managing the city is minimized as well.

3) Building Partnerships for Urban Regeneration

Urban regeneration is one of the key schemes to achieve sustainable urban development concept. Planning and implementation of urban regeneration has two dimensions; “master-planning” and “civic engagement”. Due to multi-disciplinary nature of the urban regeneration process, it is inevitable to build partnerships associated with:

• Planning – dealing with the decision making process
• Financing – based on providing funding for various types of projects
• Implementing – allowing securing the project success
• Operating – associated with providing long-lasting effects

Engagement of all stakeholders into the planning process, and allowing them to take part in plan making process is crucial for urban regeneration. Therefore, the planning process should be transparent in order to avoid social and political frictions. It is also important to explore various financing schemes to be developed and employed; including public-private, private-private and public-public funding that makes the regeneration process more financially diversified and reliable.

With regards to the implementation partnerships, urban regeneration scheme should allow the engagement of diverse sectors and partners to contribute to the process of successful implementation of the schemes. Project implementation process should close to the end-users and be financially sustainable.
Summary of discussions

In the first session, the following points have been discussed:

• The importance of long term thinking in planning “need for strategic planning”
• The importance of visioning in order to mitigate lack of coordination and to avoid working in sectoral approach;
• The importance of investing on infrastructure to help any big movements in planning as the case of Singapore;
• Livability framework as an entry to make the difference in cities;
• Securing partnerships as the means towards implementing urban regeneration programs;
• Collaborative organization as a means to improve livability in cities;
• Importance of ensuring that urban regeneration projects are not the same. Each scheme can take different form and be associated with various types of partnerships;
• The portfolio of possible solutions is large and can be employed for developing various types of projects of different size, nature and level of complexity;
• Many of these allow local communities to play important role in execution of the final scheme and retaining the prominent position in the final scheme; and
• As a result, building regeneration projects on diversified partnerships makes the projects more socially and economically sustainable, which contributes to the long-lasting success of the project.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The debate in the first session concluded with following conclusions:

• It is important to examine the relevance of new approaches of planning in different country’s context and perspectives;
• No one way of doing planning. It differs based on the different countries. Smart City approach need inter active cooperation; and
• Importance of coordination, leadership, visioning and integration as key elements leading to success of the different international experiences. These elements are key for success of planning interventions regardless of its scale (city level, neighborhood level).
The second session on
PRINCIPLES OF URBAN TRANSFORMATION
Objective of the session

The urban transformation emerging in Saudi Arabia is a great opportunity to be exploited for an urban transformation. The second session of the forum aims at discussing the Future of Saudi Cities Program and its contribution in the urban transformation in the Kingdom, the urban dimensions of sustainability and city resilience, and building resilience at the local level as a prerequisite for sustainable transformation. The following speakers introduced principles of urban transformation:

Speakers:

- Dr. Tarek El-Sheikh
  UN-HABITAT FSCP
  Program Director

- Dr. Bertand RENAUD
  The World Bank Former adviser in financial development department

- Dr. Angela Michiko
  AlpS-Center of Climate change adaption in Austria
  Director of Scientific & International Operations

- Prof. Adel AL-DOSARI
  Dean of Faculty of Environmental Design,
  King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals
Key issues raised by the presenters

1) The impact of Future of Saudi Cities Program

The Future of Saudi Cities Program is supporting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the transformation to a new and sustainable urban development model by improving evidence-based policy analysis and actions taken by the government that to be achieved in seventeen Saudi cities, by utilizing new measurement named the City Prosperity Index.

Mitigating the urban sprawl and addressing urban expansion in a well-informed manner. Providing sustainable institutional solutions and coordination between Ministries and partners engaged in the urban sector, and enhancing the institutional and technical capacity to plan and manage urbanization in a sustained manner. It is underlined that engaging and integrating the needs of all residents, in particular those of women and youth in the formulation and implementation of urban plans. Raising public awareness on prosperous cities and sustainable urbanization are also important to achieve sustainable development.

2) The Urban Dimensions Of Sustainability And City Resilience

The new Lloyd's City Risk Index is the first attempt to quantify the financial exposure to 18 different kinds of risks in the 301 most important cities of the globe. The associated development of a quantified 5-level resilience scale based on four factors in each city: the quality of governance, the degree of social cohesion, the economic strength of the city, and the quality of its infrastructure.

The period of 2015-2025 will be a critical period in the countries of the MENA region, the GCC and Saudi Arabia. Significant improvements are needed to increase the resilience of individual cities by working on the four factors of governance, degree of social cohesion, economic strength, and quality of the infrastructure whose priority ranking is likely to vary from city to city.

3) Building Resilience At The Local Level As A Prerequisite For Sustainable Transformation

Climate-sensitive iterative risk management needs to be regarded as an indispensable pillar in the pursuit of reaching and maintaining sustainability at the local government level. As a key climate change adaptation approach, preventive and comprehensive disaster risk reduction enhances resilience and thus enables cities to transform in a sustainable manner.

Our changing climate causes substantial shifts in global and local risk landscapes and will strongly affect all future decisions made by public authorities. The local governments are confronted with a growing intensity and number of risk processes and face new challenges emerging from changes in hazards and vulnerabilities.
Summary of discussions

In the second session, the following points have been discussed:

- Despite the huge efforts in urban planning in Saudi Arabia for the past years, the Saudi cities are still not up to our ambitions in sustainability, infrastructure, and livability. Therefore the Future of Saudi Cities Program will help to study and identify the bottlenecks and challenges in the planning process in the Kingdom at all levels of planning, as well as in legislation, and it will provide recommendations and solutions to the Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs.

- The focus on the large cities in Saudi Arabia is pushing to increase the inflation of these cities, which will increase also the internal immigration to the large cities. In this regard, the Future of Saudi Cities Program is working on 17 different cities, and supports the balanced distribution of services and projects in different cities, to create a balanced sustainable development in the country.

- The role of universities and NGO’s is very efficacious and can be a transmission belts between the decision maker at the city level and the neighborhood needs.

- The experience of Jubail and Yanbu city was a successful urban planning in Saudi Arabia because of the governance. The royal commission helped to provide all authorizes and governmental management in one place, having the full authority in the planning. That helped in reducing the implementation time and errors. Also that means there will not be a need for an interorganizational coordination.

- We can provide a sustainable solution for the transportation to reduce traffic congestion and car dependency by shifting to a compact city to bring the city closer to the people and to reduce car dependency. Also by community awareness in using the public transport, especially with the transformation happening in the public transport in Riyadh and other Saudi cities.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The debate in the second session concluded with following conclusions:

- Promoting the comprehensive neighborhood developments by the private sectors, to provide neighborhoods with better quality of life. (Participant recommendation).

- Saudi Arabia needs more contribution from the World Bank. (Participant recommendation).

- Legislation and implantation are still the main obstacles facing the urban planning in Saudi Arabia.
3 The third session on EXPERIENCES IN PLANNING AND MANAGING URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS
Summary of discussions

The main objective of this session is to discover new approaches and experiences promoting urban transformation since the Kingdom is experiencing a notable urban and population growth which results in new urban challenges (affordable housing, traffic congestions, balancing distribution of resources…etc.) that needs quick actions and efficient actions to be solved.

To respond to these challenges the Government has been taking number of actions including reviewing the urban planning practice on all levels (National, Regional and Local) and linking the roles of cities in all plans, adopting the proposal of an integrated public transport network and improving the provision of public spaces and facilities.

Given that, the 3rd session of the forum is to expose to experiences in planning and managing urban transformations on “Livable City” and “Smart City”; and debate the roles of urban planning on all levels as well as encouraging a decentralized urban management framework, benefiting from successful international experiences such as Germany and Korea. The following speakers introduced experiences in planning and managing urban transformation:

**Speakers:**

**Dr. Peter Gotsch**
Associate Professor of Urbanism Planning – University of Darmstadt, Germany

**Eng. Hassan Al Musa**
Deputy Director of Transport Planning Dept. The high commission for the development of Riyadh, KSA

**Dr. Jae Lee**
Director of Smart and Green Cities Researches Centre - Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements, Korea

**Prof. Robert Buckley**
New York University, Former Managing Director of Rockefeller Foundation
Key issues raised by the presenters

The following key issues were discussed in the session under each presentation:

1) Black Swans, White Elephants, and Urban Policy
The main focus of the presentation is the approaches of thinking about Urban Policy through discussing 3 main aspects:

- The importance of Urban Policy
- Identifying the emerging trends of thinking about urban policy: Black swans (as opportunities thought to be unlikely) and White Elephants (refers to an expensive, ineffective solution)
- Comparing the New Urban Agenda with other approaches to development mainly industrial policy, and taxes on financial assets.

Urban Policy is important because well-planned cities contribute to economic development, which made the speaker present the trends of interest in urbanization from 1920 till 2005 (showing a decline) which is a key point the Habitat III should address.

Some urban world subjects have been emerging such as: climate change, and income inequality, leading to a remarkable need for a change in mind set.

The speaker explained in depth how urbanization can be promoted through channels that seemed to be unlikely before (Black Swans) represented in research and the focus of well-functioning of cities, and also trying to avoid regressive, ineffective, financially and spatially unsustainable approaches (White Elephants) represented in massive housing programs.

International practices been introduced to compare between designed proposals for housing developments and reality in (Lagos, Kinshasa, and Nairobi), in addition to some successful examples from Ethiopia and Mexico.

The debate about comparing New Urban Agenda with other approaches such as industrial policy concluded that the industrial policy (which needs infrastructure coverage and strong coordination to produce better growth) cannot work without well-functioning cities and decentralized urban decision making.

2) Planning of Smart Cities
One of the keywords of the 21st century is smart cities, and it is considered as a key tool utilized in solving emerging urban problems, in developing countries, and facing emerging problems such as climate change in developed countries.

Smart Cities is usually defined as the city enabled to solve urban problems through exploitation of ICT (Information and communication Technology) or being a sustainable city enabled to improve urban competitiveness and quality of life.

The difference between the current city and the smart city in solving urban problems has been introduced; as example the increase of crime, where in current city the action will be increasing police forces, while in the smart city it will be providing Real-Time monitoring via CCTV.

It has been pointed that Korea is a leading country in constructing smart cities, as more than 50 smart cities is being constructed out of 163 cities in Korea.

The success in establishing smart cities in Korea goes back to the integrated approach that has been followed which consisted of the following:

- Smart City legal systems, where it is planned, developed, managed and operated under one umbrella; An Integrated Smart city Act
- Smart City planning system; where a set of plans is being established and approved by the local authorities and the government bodies.
- Smart City Organizational structure and the inter-department cooperation between Smart City council, minister of land, infrastructure and transportation, minister of science, ICT and future
planning, and other minister (service development)

According to the smart cities act, smart cities main components include: Smart cities services, Smart cities infrastructure and Smart cities technology.

In Korea, the cost of construction of smart cities is paid by urban development profit. Average cost of the U-city construction is around 30 million $ (which is 3 % less than a new town).

Some current problems facing smart cities have been highlighted, such as the focus on public facilities; where the direction to solving this is encouraging the citizens participation and public-private participation. The speaker insisted that both the physical and cyber space should be considered for better smart cities planning.

3) Planning Experiences in European Cities – From Planning Paradigms to Sustainable Neighborhoods

As the European Union has been one of the world’s most urbanized areas with 32 cities with more than 1 million inhabitants and 170 cities with more than 200,000 inhabitants, it can be a good reference for Saudi cities in achieving sustainable urban development for the following reasons:

• Richness in experience and data in urban planning issues
• The role of cities or more accurately urban regions as the main cultural, economic and innovative centers of Europe
• The high level of satisfaction of citizens in living in their cities on the neighborhood level

The guiding models shaping the spatial development in Europe have been introduced such as: Urbanization corridors, balanced urbanization, polycentric development, decentralized concentration, containment of urbanization, and green networks.

The presentation pointed to the key milestones supporting urban development in European cities such as: peace, political stability and economic growth, infrastructure, balanced distribution of wealth, unified market, and standardization of rules and regulations.

Also a recent challenge is the large influx of refugees and migration is facing the European cities and could have a great impact on European context.

Since European cities have been lately facing some emerging issues, The European Spatial Development Policy (ESDP) has been prepared in 1999 in line with a number of spatial visions for urban development such as:

• Vision & Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010 (Updated in 2001)
• NorVision – A Spatial Perspective for the North Sea Region (1998 – 2000)
• Atlantic Spatial Development Perspective (2004 – 2005)
• CADSES ‘Central European, Adriatic, Danube and Southeast European Area’

The common goals focused on Balancing Demographic Trends, Preserving Resources and shaping cultural landscapes, steering the energy transition.

The speaker highlighted Germany’s Perspective on Habitat III represented in the National Report Germany and mainly focused on: Demographic issues (Aging and household change), Land & Urban Planning (Consumption of land), Environment and Urbanization (Pollution & Climate change), Urban Governance and Legislation (Protection of the poor and vulnerable), Urban Economy (Local Value creation), and Housing and Basic services (Large rental sector).

Some innovative initiatives have been presented as success stories on different levels, including:

• A project in neighborhood development in Freiburg which promoting a car free community, mixed land uses, energy efficient housing units, and smart mobility solutions.
• Innovation of Regional Governance: The Regional Planning Association in Frankfurt.
• The planning instrument of International Building Exhibitions (IBA), experimental projects based on workshops and competitions.

4) King Abdul Aziz Project for Riyadh Public Transport
Responding to the major urban challenges facing Saudi cities mainly traffic congestions in major cities such as: Riyadh, Jeddah, Makkah, ... etc.

An in-depth overview has been presented on the integrated Public Transport Network being constructed in Riyadh city.

The presentation introduced an overview of Riyadh’s population growth, urban growth trends (1940 – 2010), highlighted facts and numbers:

• 5961 km² land and 1297 km² of developed land
• 6 million total population (62% Saudis – 38% Non-Saudis)
• Household size (6.2 Persons) and numbers of Housing Units (0.96 million units)
• MEDSTAR Main structure has been introduced (sector strategies – Structure Plan – Urban Management)
• Population projections till 2030 (8.3 million) and daily vehicle trips (15 million doubling from 2016) has been introduced.

It was noticed that the percentage of roads is 37% compared to 63% for other land uses, which indicates the necessity of providing an alternative (public transport).

The Riyadh Public Transport project consists of 2 main components: Riyadh Metro & Riyadh Bus where the maps showing the alignments, number of lines, consortiums, ultimate capacities (3.6 million for Metro & 0.9 million for Bus), locations of stations, depots, and park & ride structures. In addition to introducing the associated initiatives that is already ongoing:

• Enhancing citizens’ well-being (planning and design – setting institutional setup – implementation – community engagement – Campaigning – Raising Awareness)

Summary of discussions

In the third session, the following points have been discussed:

• The Korean experience in constructing Smart cities influence the Saudi initiative for developing smart cities by: inviting the private sector in the process, and identifying the smart city infrastructure needed based on the capability of each specific city.
• The way Germany overcome the housing challenges; mostly due to migration, by shifting from large housing programs (misdirected, ineffective) into efficient sustainable housing communities.
• How the European policies promotes balanced development can benefit the Saudi case. It was suggested that the starting point should be a good understanding of the Saudi context to be able to identify the common opportunities between regions and cities and coordinate their significance among all planning levels (National, Regional, and Local).
• The main strategies set to emphasis the use of public transportation during operation. This was introduced in the engagement of all stakeholders, encouraging TOD developments, and providing Park and ride systems in major destinations on the network.
• The criteria of selecting the locations of the metro stations took into consideration the surrounding urban context and the main destinations.
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
The debate in the third session concluded with following conclusions:

• It is becoming important to discover new approaches in enhancing the built environment in cities relevant to the kingdom’s context and culture, also avoiding regressive and ineffective solutions;
• The role of planning frameworks and the coordination between different planning levels along with a solid institutional and legal setup is becoming a must (The necessity of creating an integrated National Urban Policy)
• Identifying the capabilities of Saudi Cities in developing smart cities solutions which will lead to the right decisions about the infrastructure needed.
• Importance of encouraging the emerging actions meant to solve urban problems such as: public transportation and promote new strategies to raise awareness of citizens in this regard.
The fourth session on
THE FUTURE OF URBAN PLANNING
Objective of the session

Cities are growing and changing rapidly, the main objective of this session is to discover new approaches and new ways of thinking about how to meet these changes in a smart; in strategic manner go through planning history discussing the positives and negatives of the planning process; thinking outside the box and giving examples and methods of different experiences around the world.

The following speakers introduced the future of urban planning:

Speakers:

Prof. Rassem Badran
Urban Intellectual, Jordan

Dr. Rafael Tuts
Head of The Urban Planning and Design Department – UN Habitat

Dr. Kh Nahiduzzaman
Assistant Professor, Dept. of City Regional Planning, King Fahad University of Petroleum and Minerals

Dr. Husam Al Waer
Professor of Urban Planning – University of Dundee, Scotland, UK
Key issues raised by the presenters

The following key issues discussed in the session:

1) Unplanned Settlements
The speaker pointed out that unplanned settlements have a story and a history behind them. He also mentioned that open spaces are created based on every day activity by the people themselves and this happens without planning and the help of professional. Damascus was given as an example: the speaker explained how the planning of the city can tell a story through time and provide good history and added that the city has its own narrative and identity.

2) Urban Transformation in KSA – On going trend and upcoming challenges
The speaker emphasized the need for ‘breathing out’ spaces, and added that the need is felt more today than ever in the past; that there is need for transformation of “need” for breathing space from Semi-Public (indoor) to public space (open); that there is need for transformation towards gender balancing and greater mobility for women; that increased options for mobility (public transport, walking and cycling) would further perpetuate the need for outing and seeking more breathing out-public spaces.

3) National Spatial Strategy
The speaker highlighted the importance of the development corridors and the growth centers, which are highly available but they face limitations from the administration. The typical dilemma was mentioned to be the need for both concentration and disaggregation at the same time. The other limitation mentioned was lack of awareness of the National Spatial Strategy and the National Transportation Strategy. There are lack of horizontal and vertical links which are vital, for example there is a missing link in the National Integration of the national spatial strategy.

4) The Freiburg Charter, Sustainable Urban Planning and Development
Using a chart called the Magical Triangle of Urban Development, the speaker illustrated the components taken into consideration before planning a city or public space. The chart has three main features the Social question, Economy and Ecology. The second level include aspects of Citizen Participation, Cultural diversity and Education. This triangle is constructed at Regional Level; all these aspects are studied before planning any city or public space. There are 12 Guiding principles required for sustainable development, these 12 principles are categorized into three main groups: Spatial, Content and process.
Summary of discussions

During the discussion two schools of thoughts emerged, those who thing that the way to approach urban planning in the future is by putting in place good policies and legislation while on the other hand there are those who think that urban planning simply needs a complete new way of thinking “thinking outside the box”. The speaker however, strongly believes that “The masterplan cannot be fixed by no one” and argued that opportunities such as the economic crisis and the financial resources should be taken as leverages; that new areas with new planned spaces should start small and should be given the time to plan and grow slowly and that the Hierarchy of planning must be fixed accurately before starting to plan levels and spaces.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion the fourth session can be summarized in to the following:

• Creating the ‘Third Place’ known as the public space is an important aspect of the urban planning of cities.
• The natural land elements should be taken under consideration as planning guidelines.
• Strategic Visioning is required in urban planning. Two main speakers recommended “the five finger method” also called the “the regional finger plan” used in Copenhagen in 1947.
5 The fifth session on:
DIALOGUE ABOUT THE BEST LOCAL PRACTICES IN THE URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS TOWARDS NEW URBAN AGENDA
Objective of the session

The main objective of the session was to present the different good local practices which have proved to be advanced in the approach and content of the urban planning practice. The session covers both case studies in Big Cities besides small and medium sized cities and the leadership role in those selected cities was examined as well as the local authorities or the special status agencies.

The cases were selected as proof that these new planning approaches can work either at the city level or neighborhood level. Also it proved that several organizations in KSA were successful in setting up innovative solutions for urban planning run outside the direct management and supervision of MOMRA. Hence it is important to make cross linkages and cross fertilization of those practices for ease transfer of knowledge and up scaling the experiences to other different cities in KSA.

The following speakers introduced the best local practices in the urban transformation towards New Urban Agenda:

**Speakers:**

- Dr. Abdulrahman AL-AL-SHEIKH
  Deputy Minister for Town Planning, Ministry of Municipal & Rural Affairs

- Eng. Ahmad ALSUBAIL
  Director General of Strategic Urban Planning, The High Commission for the Development of Riyadh

- Dr. Yasser ADAS
  Director General of Structural Plan at Jeddah Municipality

- Eng. Mazen BAKHURJI

- Eng. Ahmad ALSUBAIL
  Director General of Strategic Urban Planning, The High Commission for the Development of Riyadh

- Dr. Yasser ADAS
  Director General of Structural Plan at Jeddah Municipality

- Eng. Mazen BAKHURJI

- Dr. Abdulrahman AL-AL-SHEIKH
  Deputy Minister for Town Planning, Ministry of Municipal & Rural Affairs

- Eng. Yusef AL SWAILEM
  DPlanning Engineer, Saudi Aramco

- Eng. Salah BAHOBAIL
  Advisor to the CEO of Indicative Planning, Royal Commission for Yanbu

- Eng. Abdulaziz ALMOHIMEED
  Director General of Real Estate, Municipality and Urban Plan at the Economic Cities Authority
Key issues raised by the presenters

1) The Role of Planning & Projects Centers in Managing Urban Transformations
The presentation was focused on two main objectives; the first was to highlight the role of the planning center established in ADA in 1394 H. The second objective was to add snapshots from the Riyadh MEDSAT strategic planning that was approved in 2012.

ADA is a corporate body affiliated to the king. It has several planning, coordination and follow-up tasks, and to supervise major strategic projects. It is the development arm of the Prince of Riyadh. The Planning center was established in 1401 to become the technical and management secretariat of the ADA with most functions in planning and studies. This planning arm has established important committees to run and coordinate the tasks for the city of Riyadh; among them, the transportation, traffic safety, environment and Dirriya Historical Area. ADA is fully responsible for managing strategic projects such as Wadi Haneifa environmental program and Riyadh Metro project.

The second part of the presentation showed the main findings of the MEDSTAR strategic plan for Riyadh. The plan set the agreed future vision for Riyadh supported with 11 sectoral plans. The strategic plan was also supported with structure plan to reflect the main pillars of the strategy in spatial terms including the metropolitan center, the hierarchy of the different urban centers and connecting roads, the two peripheral zones in the east and north of the city.

2) Jeddah City: Future Vision
The presentation showed the four layers of planning used in order to set the vision of Jeddah into action (strategic, sub regional, structure and local plan). The first was the Jeddah vision which fully depended on integration, compactness, connectivity and resilience as the main pillars behind the vision of the plan. This was supported by number of sketches and charts which shows how each idea was reflected in the plan making in details as shown in the local plan. The sub regional plan set the phasing of the plan within the administrative borders and also the urban limits of the city. The structure plan showed in more detail that the city was divided into seven homogenous urban centers. It showed the linkage with the hierarchy of needed social services beginning from the metropolitan center to the small local center. Special emphasis was shown on the transportation and connectivity within the urban centers, green infrastructure, the reuse of underground water, the housing and the challenge of unplanned settlements in Jeddah (62 area) as well as the infrastructure. The final part was focused on showing more details about one of the urban centers from the different perspectives above (roads, transportation, housing, unplanned settlements, transportation, infrastructure, etc.). Finally the local plan for some areas was shown in which the emphasis on increasing the FAR, connectivity through changing land uses, mixed land uses, densifications and other principles guiding the plan was discussed in details.

3) Building Partnerships in Urban Development, Half Moon Town,
The presentation documents the process of preparing regeneration areas with focus on recreational uses in Dammam City. The presentation showed and discussed the various guidelines for developing the area as per the regulation of the city plan for Dammam. The city called “half-moon” represents the non-traditional extension of the city. The presentation showed the mission statement of the city and the strategy for developing the city extension based on sustainability principles. Those principles stressed, the importance of controlling the urban economy; the integration between the coastal areas and the urban concepts; the utilization of open spaces and pedestrian areas; the use of gradual integrated densities; the use of renewable energy resources; the building on effective transportation systems; maximizing the positive impact of landscape.

The presentation discussed the four options for regeneration in the city. The master plan for the area was discussed, roads network, and public
transportation. The strategy for the implementation was based on the Sahrikiya municipality to identify a company fully dedicated to develop the area. The company will use different PPP modes for development including (BOT, BOOT, BOO, BOLT). Each of these options will be used for developing one of the projects. The program for implementation sets targets for implementation over four phases including the marketing plan.

4) Planning Sustainable Urban communities of Special Nature, South Dhahran Home Ownership Community

The first presentation began by highlight Aramaco projects in the different cities in KSA. This unique program has been active for more than 60 years now in the provision of more than 57,000 home loans and developing more than 16,500 Land Plots in more than eight (8) locations Kingdom wide. The presentation brought forward the vision to create a balanced community, protect the environment and stimulate economic growth. The presentation also showed the different principles behind this plan including walkability, protection of the identity, optimal building orientation, mixed land use, landscape and biodiversity, Sustainable Urban Planning in Cities of Special Nature – such as the development plan for Yanbu Industrial city.

The second presentation began by showing the city in numbers. The city is the second largest industrial complex in the MENA area and the 3rd largest Global refining hub with capacity of more than 1.1 Million Barrel per day. The total investment is about $57 Billion.


The process began by strong stakeholders consultation and review which has included different governmental central actors, local government actors and royal commission with strong peer review by three biggest national universities (KSU, KFUPM, KAU) and American Planning association (APA).

The presentation showed the master plan of the city, the different scenarios and the elements shaping the recommended options for development. Sustainability Design Principles shaping the master plan includes the following elements, Densification and proximity to community facilities, Compact block pattern, permeability, Sustainability and walk-able community besides applying different new technologies for applying sustainability principles for infrastructure facilities.

5) Urban Transformations in the Economic Cities

The Economic Cities Authority (ECA) was established under Statute, Royal Order No. (A/19); issued on 10/3/31H, 24/2/10G.
The ECA is responsible for full administrative and financial supervision over economic cities to achieve their goals in promoting investment of national capital and attracting foreign investments and the objectives of development plans in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. On ‘Greenfield’ land the economic cities are to be the “Modern Cities” model for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the vision of which is, “To create the world’s most innovative and competitive cities to live, work, play and learn” Developed by the private sector with support from Government and planned based on Smart City and Sustainable Development Principles.

The principles of designing the economic cities were as following, Creating value; Opening opportunities – education, employment; attracting FDI; broadening the national economic base; raising living standards; setting a benchmark of sustainable growth; expanding and modernizing the tourism product and better life style. This was applied in four economic cities (King Abdullah Economic City, Knowledge Economic City, Prince Abdulaziz Bin Mousaed Economic City, Jazan Economic City.

The presentation showed through maps, figures and actual pictures the elements of two cities KAEC and KEC. KAEC Port was established as first private port in the ME and 106 Industrial investors, 5,500 Housing Units in KAEC and KEC. 50% of infrastructure completed in KEC, Anchor investors in Jazan, phase one, port, refinery, labor and housing. AEC master plan streamlined to include Station on the Mecca – Madinah high speed rail.

The city showed a unique governance structure with focus on the following: Supporting the cities Master Developers, investors and residences through PPP; Tailored regulation by ECA to achieve the national economic, environmental and social development goals; Facilitating through eGov. - fast track investor approvals and support and through Smart Service Center (SCC), a One-Stop-Shop, establishing centralized municipal and real estate regularity body, for building and operation control and establishment of healthy RE market; Setting and monitoring all safety and security standards and other aspects.

The cases showed how transformations happened in the city plans beyond the city limits to cope with international external factors such as storm water design principles applied in KAEC in order to cope with climate change and sea level rise while using green infrastructure typologies to manifest the integration between natural systems and district design. Change of the master plan to reflect the urban economy reality was another example of adaptation of the planning systems to cope with international and national economic changes. At the same time some major national wide projects were modified to support the city such as the realignment of the mecca-Madinah high-speed railway to have a stop in the city and the land bridge from Dammam to the city.
The six cases stressed the importance of looking seriously at sustainability regardless of the level of the planning. All of the case studies ensured the importance of this element as one of the key principles guiding the planning of each of the cases. Some of the cases stressed the importance of partnerships with the private sector as key elements. Different arrangements were discussed amongst them cases of successful partnerships such as the use of BOO, BOT, BOOT and other arrangements. The cases stressed the importance of mixed land use, ensuring high density and compact cities rather than sprawl, greening the city and green infrastructure and walkability and pedestrianization elements in the different case studies.

The importance of the governance and city level administration is as a key factor behind success in plan implementation. The case of Riyadh and the economic cities, specifically stressed the importance of this element as a key prerequisite for plan monitoring and efficient implementation.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are some of the conclusions from presentations and discussions in the fifth session:

- That its importance to setup national level urban planning act which should include the success of the different government agencies under one umbrella rather than having several non-connected regulations set by different institutions, while ensuring the importance of keeping flexibility of regulations to fit the local circumstances rather than having one typology of regulations for the different cities.
- City authorities in Saudi Arabia are aware about the problems that the cities in KSA are facing mainly due to low density and lack of public transportations. Most of the innovative elements in the urban planning practices in Saudi cities are getting around these problems through embedding new elements such as mixed land uses, increasing densities - especially around nodes of transportation; sustainability and greening the city; ensuring the inclusiveness of the city - through ensuring active participation in all phases of plan making; building on the public transportation - ensuring the city is integrating and well connected with the city region, plan are modified and no static based on changing circumstances.
- Partnerships and private sector participation were key elements and several cases stressed the importance of ensuring good environment for successful PPP through proper and flexible regulations. On the other side governance elements in general and ensuring the good capacities at both city and neighborhood level was key message. The different cases showed more than one option for ensuring good governance as key element for successful urban planning.
6 The sixth session on

URBAN LEGISLATION - IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF SERVICES AND INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT
Objective of the session

The main objective of this session is to highlight the necessity of having a strong legal and institutional framework which plays a key role in supporting the municipal bodies in achieving the goals of planning, and arriving at the desired results for quality of life and balanced growth in cities, along with promoting the participation of all stakeholders and the community in the development process. The following speakers introduced improving the quality of services and investment environment:

Speakers:

Dr. Ghanim AlMohamady
Special Counselor of the Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs

Eng. Shehada Abu Hadaib
Member of the Senate at the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Dr. Abdul Aziz Adidi
CEO of the Urban Planning Institute in Rabat, Morocco

Dr. Mansour Helmi
Associate Professor at the Faculty of Environmental Design, King Abdul Aziz University
Key issues raised by the presenters

The following key issues were highlighted by speakers in their presentations during the sixth session:

1) Decentralization of the Municipal Services

The main focus of the presentation is about the Jordanian Experience in Municipal work:

The efforts that have been adopted by the Jordanian Government in amending the laws and regulations to enhance the municipal practice including elections, giving remarkable authority to municipal councils, resetting the age of voters to 18 instead of 19 years old to raise participation, allocating a 20% quota for women as members in the municipal councils as part of promoting the role of Women and Youth in the municipal process.

All these procedures resulted in more participation in elections (more than 62% of citizens voted) out of that 51% were women. One of the top priorities was emphasizing the participation of government institutions, community, and Non-Profit organizations to arrive at a balanced urban planning practice where resources are efficiently utilized. The key challenges facing the development process has been highlighted in the following points:

• High Poverty and Unemployment rates in cities, and the lack of public facilities (Schools, Healthcare etc.)
• Unsuitableness of the laws and regulations to the local planning activities
• Centralization in decision making in major cities
• Lack of coordination between programs of the government and the private sector initiatives
• Lack of capacity of municipal bodies and absence of resources for training programs
• Shortage of local economy share in Gross Domestic Product of the municipalities and the absence of the corporate social responsibilities of the private sector.

The Comprehensive Land Use Plan has been introduced as the main tool driving urban development in all regions with the emphasizes on the participation of private sector and NGOs in delivering the projects in the plan. The comprehensive Land Use Plan sets objectives, policies, priority projects in public facilities, and it takes into considerations the following:

• The best use of the natural resources and preserving the environment for sustainability.
• Setting development plans for a 20 year period, to be reviewed every 5 years
• Engaging all stakeholders (Government agencies, private developers, NGOs, etc.) in the plan making process on all levels (National, Regional, and Local)

The presentation concluded with the following recommendations as a road map to face the previous challenges: Developing the urban legislation framework needed to achieve good quality of life and ensure adequate service provision; promote the public private partnership in developing poor areas; engagement of women and youth; encouraging decentralization in local municipal bodies; and finally promoting the capacity building of the local municipality employees in planning and urban management.

2) Legislations related to the Renovation and Urban Development: Program of “Cities without Slums”

The main focus of the presentation is about the Moroccan experience in solving the problem of slum areas over the years. The presentation has been structured into 4 main sections: the first section introduces the slum areas phenomena and examples from Moroccan cities, the second section talks about the Strategies followed till 2003, the third section about the “Cities without Slums” Program initiated since 2004, and the last section is about Parallel Programs set for solving Slum Areas problems.

Introducing the slum areas phenomena and examples from Moroccan cities:

The location of slum areas has been presented showing Major,
medium and small cities in Morocco, where the 1st slum area emerged in Al Rabat and Casablanca. The language used in referring to the problem of slum areas was a bit harsh at that time, words such as: Eliminate, Remove, Siege, Tackle, etc. Slum Areas has been classified into 3 main types: Shanty Housing, Illegal Housing, and Building in bad conditions. And examples have been presented from Historical areas in Fas and Marrakesh.

**Strategies followed till 2003:**
The government took quick actions to stop the phenomenon in addition to international aid efforts lead by the World Bank and USAID. The government looked at the problem from 2 angles: 1st Safety and security, where these areas were considered as sources of danger, and the 2nd angle is an engineered solution ignoring the socio economic factor, and this led to 3 alternatives for the solutions: Deportation, Re-Structuring the areas, and Resettlement of inhabitants in other locations.

**“Cities without Slums” Program initiated since 2004:**
This program initiated from a Royal Decree that has set a goal of improving the quality of living of residents in slum areas. The program followed 3 new approaches in solving the problem: An integrated approach looking at the city as a whole, admitting the legal and contractual status of the residents, and social inclusion of the residents.

The target was to regenerate 85 areas by the year 2010, but only 32 have been achieved, and in 2015 they have reached 55 out of the 85.

The key challenges were financing of the projects, shortage of housing budget of the government, and residents being unable to afford the expenses needed to share in the project development.

**Parallel Programs set for solving Slum Areas problems:**
The government started to look for partnerships with the private sector and the NGOs in solving the problem especially for the deteriorated areas that were in more danger.

Morocco has won an award from UN Habitat in 2010 for facing the slum areas problem.

**3) Saudi Spatial Planning Act: Key Finding & Future Directions**
The main focus of the presentation is about the efforts towards the initiative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in preparing a National Urban Planning Act. The presentation focused on the methodology that has been followed in the 1st phase of preparing the Planning Act which composes of 3 main steps: Sorting and Classifying all existing laws and by-laws affecting urban planning, analyzing results through questionnaires shared with municipalities and interviews with legal experts, and applying UN Habitat tool in legal assessment through a series of workshops round the Kingdom (4 workshops), to understand the effectiveness of the laws and regulations in practice.

The preliminary results of the questionnaires has been presented which reflected the most significant laws and by-laws and the classification of topics of the collected laws to date (a total of 520 laws and by-laws).

The 6 dimensions of the UN Habitat tool for legal assessment has been presented and explained as: Land Management, Public Space, Financing, Development Rights, Plots and Builtup area, and Building Regulations.
Summary of discussions

The discussions in the sixth session - part A, can be summarized into the following points:

- The initiative of MoMRA in establishing the training institute responding to the need of building the capacity of the municipal employees. In addition, the focus of the National Transformation Program in committing the Ministries of Labor, Education, and Civil Service to develop a vision on training graduates before joining the working force.

- The Jordan case, where there is a joint program between the Engineering Council and the Ministries for training fresh graduate engineers, the labor law specifies the minimum salaries in both private and government sectors, the right of continuous learning is guaranteed for engineers working in municipal bodies.

- The Moroccan case, where the government offered tax exemptions as a new approaches to encourage the private sector to participate in solving the problem of slum areas. However, the Moroccan case is still experiencing a challenge in the social inclusion of the residents of slum areas, where the wealthy families refuse to live with people from the slum areas.

The main gap identified in the legal assessment process is that most of the laws and by-laws are outdated and inapplicable for the current situations. The next step of the work being undertaken for the Planning Act for KSA will be preparing a TOR for the preparation of the Planning Act.
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
The presentations and discussions in part A of the sixth session arrived at the following conclusions:

• To promote the development of Medium and Small cities to limit migration to major cities in search for better opportunities.
• Develop a strong database of information for city planning processes.
• Define the objective of legislations in the urban planning process.
• Put emphasis on the necessity of linking the institutional framework with the legal framework.
• Enhance the Institutional and Legislative framework to improve the quality of life and prevent slum areas.
• Emphasize the necessity of developing a National Urban Planning Act for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
• Establish the engagement of stakeholders including the private sector, youth and women.
• Set the stage for regional planning by redefining planning regions, their purpose and define competencies and responsibilities (Law of Regions).
• Support regional planning through data and information, studies and capacity building.
• Organize the exchange between planning authorities in the Kingdom, initiate and support spatial development cooperation beyond the borders of the Kingdom.
• Monitor and evaluate regional planning.
• Review and revise the vision, objectives, framework and implementation of NSS every 5-10 years.
• Develop mechanisms for the coordination between the municipal council and other governmental bodies in the city.
• Establish greater coordination between the members of the municipal council and the mayor.
• Increasing the cooperation and coordination between the Municipal Council and the Municipality.
• Put more emphasis on the importance of the coordination between the municipal council, the local council, and the regional council.
The sixth session B on
EFFECTIVE COORDINATION BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONAL COUNCILS
Objective of the session

Lately the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia began to give greater priority to the high levels of planning, by reviewing the NSS, the regional plans, and the governance in the regions, in addition to its efforts to improve the coherence between the different levels of planning, and between municipalities and regional councils.

In this regard, the sixth session of the forum discussed the effective coordination between municipalities and regional councils, the integration and coordination as an approach to updating and activating the national spatial strategy, the governance in regional development, the value of coordination mechanisms to implement regional plans in the Kingdom, and the role of municipal councils in promoting effective coordination mechanisms.

The following speakers introduced effective coordination between municipalities and regional councils:

Speakers:

Khaled Alnifaie
Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs Head of the Research and Studies Department

Sulaiman Abu Khorma
Ministry of Economy & Planning Senior Consultant on Regional Planning

Ulrich Graute
Independent expert for international cooperation & development

Amir Al-Alwan
Institute of Public Administration/General Director of Financial and Economic programs
Key issues raised by the presenters

1) The Integration And Coordination As An Approach To Updating And Activating The National Spatial Strategy

The National Urban Policy is a key tool to increase the popularity of the National Spatial Strategy by other ministries, as well as the related authorities.

The policy is a long-term vision directs many of the strategies. The tools of the National Spatial Strategy such as growth centers and development corridors can be reviewed and revised to target the investments in the infrastructure in the future based on the results of the “National Urban Policy,” which embodies the balanced urban development goals.

2) The Governance In Regional Development

Linking the spending system with an integrated urban hierarchy to guide the service and development spending spatially, through a coherent and integrated network of the urban and rural areas to enhance the efficiency of development management and for a better allocation of resources.

3) The Value Of Coordination Mechanisms To Implement Regional Plans In The Kingdom

It is necessary to have a system of regional planning which is able to identify regional potentials for sustainable and economic development in order to improve governance.

Regional planning is the intermediate level between national and local governance.

It is crucial for monitoring of territorial development and for the development and implementation of strategies to increase the regional contribution to development.

4) The Role Of Municipal Councils In Promoting Effective Coordination Mechanisms

The results of the coordination of municipal councils research indicate that 60% of the Municipal Council members believes that the lack of coordination between the President of the Municipal Council and the Municipality significantly affects the performance of the Municipal Council. 68% believes it is about the lack of coordination between the Municipality and the Municipal Council. 51% believes it is about the lack of coordination between the Municipal Council and other sectors. 60% believes it is about the lack of coordination between the Municipal Council and the city council. Also the search results indicated that 58% believes it is about the lack of coordination between the Municipal Council and the Regional Council.

Summary of discussions

In the sixth session B, the following points have been discussed:

• The regional plans should have indicators to measure its effectiveness and to be monitored and evaluated.
• To solve the lack of coordination between regional councils, there should be a focal point between the councils and different authorities to improve the coordination.
• There is no mechanism for coordination between the Regional Councils and Municipal Councils. The success of the councils depends on the leadership and initiatives.
• The lack of KPI to measure the performance of the Amanah and the Councils is one of the main obstacles for their institutional and regulatory environment and staff working in the field need a good professional training and on-going capacity building as part of life-long learning.
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The debate in the sixth session B concluded with following conclusions:

- The formation of a ministerial committee headed by the Ministry of Economy and Planning, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs to activate outcomes of the Regional Development Governance study, and deciding on all the requirements of the regional development, as a transitional phase until the adoption of the governance system for the regional development.
- The formation of a working group from the Ministry of Economy and Planning and the Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs to develop a balanced urban system based on the Regional Development Governance study outcomes.
- Preparing implementation regulations for the governance spending standards by the Ministry of Economy and Planning in coordination with the relevant authorities.
- The placement of the development spending standards in creating an investment map for regions and the provinces and associated policies.
- Organize a national dialogue on regional planning.
- Define the vision and objectives of spatial planning.
- Define the intuitional, regulatory and financial framework for planning (Planning Act).
- Establish the engagement of stakeholders including the private sector, youth and women.
- Set the stage for regional planning by redefining planning regions, their purpose and define competences and responsibilities (Law of Regions).
- Support regional planning through data and information, studies and capacity building.
- Organize the exchange between planning authorities in the Kingdom and initiate and support spa-al development cooperation beyond the borders of the Kingdom.
- Monitor and evaluate regional planning.
- Review and revise the vision, objectives, framework and implementation of NSS every 5-10 years.
- Develop mechanisms for the coordination between the municipal council and other governmental bodies in the city.
- Greater coordination between the members of the municipal council and the mayor.
- Increasing the cooperation and coordination between the Municipal Council and the Municipality.
- The importance of the coordination between the municipal council, the local council, and the regional council.
The seventh session on
ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH CENTERS IN SHAPING BETTER URBAN FUTURE
Objective of the session

Lately the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia began to give greater priority to the high levels of planning, by reviewing the NSS, the regional plans, and the governance in the regions, in addition to its efforts to improve the coherence between the different levels of planning, and between municipalities and regional councils.

In this regard, the sixth session of the forum discussed the effective coordination between municipalities and regional councils, the integration and coordination as an approach to updating and activating the national spatial strategy, the governance in regional development, the value of coordination mechanisms to implement regional plans in the Kingdom, and the role of municipal councils in promoting effective coordination mechanisms.

The following speakers introduced effective coordination between municipalities and regional councils:

Speakers:

Prof. David Show
Professor at school of environmental science university of Liverpool, UK

Prof. Sahar Attia
Head of department of architecture, faculty of engineering Cairo University, EGYPT

Dr. Anas Al Faris
Supervisor of (JCEP) King AbdulAziz City for Science and Technology (KACST)

Prof. Adel AlDawsari
King Fahd Universities for petroleum and Minerals

Dr. Nadine Shahin
CEO-Placemaking.me & Adjunct – Architecture & Interior Design at American Universities in Dubai
Key issues raised by the presenters

1) British Experiences in support of urban planning in UK

The educative role of the universities should not be for Profit Business, but to deliver the knowledge to all kinds of people who are seeking for the education in different fields.

The researches should be publically funded for societal benefit in relation to the big challenges. In professional subject like civic designs there is an added dimension (The link with practice) which was a constant thread running through the history of planning education in Liverpool, and it is very important now as it ever was. The school of Environmental science of Liverpool was launched based on three elements that are founding department of civic design, establish the liver chair and create town planning review.

The presentation showed the evolutions in the curriculum of urban planning through decades to face the challenges; it also underlined the changes in the definitions in the urban planning principles. The presentation further elaborated the impact of the planning researches in Europe at different levels and scales such as (Global, European, National, Regional and city level).

2) Role of universities network in UN-HABITAT and role of Egyptian universities in support of urban development practices

The speaker started the speech by mentioning that this forum is a great milestone for sustainability and development in the Kingdom, and that the number of female participants reflects the social inclusion and women empowerment in the Kingdom.

The role of the universities is to activate and support the researches and studies which lead to the development and enhancement of knowledge. The age analysis showed that the number of students in the universities will increase in the near future.

The roles of universities contributes in shaping the future of cities in four dimensions (Resources, Communications, Credibility inaccessibility), which work through the system of integrating together the Universities, Society and The Government.

The presentation demonstrated the University Network Initiative (UNI), which has a great role in building capacities in the new urban agenda by promoting the cooperation between UN-HABITAT and institutions of higher educations. The UNI also could enable the universities to become closer partners of cities and engage in problem solving. The UNI aims to close the gap between academia and practice, and encourage collaborative learning and create the next generations of urban leaders and managers. The UNI comprise of 189 institutional members plus 1260 individual members. Representation of universities from the Arab states reflected a low percentage of 16% out of the total number of participating universities from all over the world, and they are from only two countries (Egypt & Algeria). The UNI has 8 different hubs covering the whole world in the main 7 streams of (Informal Urbanism, Climate Change, Food Security, Urban Futures, Urban Governance, Urban Form, Gender, Urban Accessibility, Safer Cities and Urban Regeneration).

The presentation also demonstrated the role of the General Assembly of Partners towards HABITAT III (GAP), which is considered as a document to address inputs for the new urban agenda through playing the role of inclusive platform to facilitate the involvement of non-governmental stakeholders in the HABITAT III process and conference, and to support an inclusive dialogue and wide spread stakeholder’s engagement to the HABITAT III. It is considered as a special initiative of the world urban Campaign.

The speaker also demonstrated the assistance of the Egyptian universities to the Egyptian government in different ways such as direct assistance to the national projects, participations of staff members in policies and strategies and protocols consultancy centers within universities on the national, regional and local levels.
3) Urban Planning Advisory Board in King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals

The college of environmental design was established during the academic year of 1980-1981 to meet the large demand for professional in the building industry. The College has a vision to be globally recognized in creating sustainable built environment in KSA and the region.

The goals of the college are distributed in four main Targeted segments which are:

1. Students: Attach and maintain a qualified pool of undergraduate students.
2. Faculty: Build and sustain strong, dynamic, motivated, highly qualified and committed faculty members.
3. Research: Improve the quality and quantity of research output in the college.
4. Engage and strengthen ties with the external stakeholders through outreach activities.

The presentation discussed the role of (KFUPM) in filling the gap between the theories and practices and actions through developing different applications and developing the capacities for the trainers and trainees to improve their performance in the researches and link it to the society. In 1997, The KFUPM launched the Industrial Advisory Board, which had many achievements in terms of capacity building for students, and graduates, organize workshops and public lectures and finally the creation of the construction industry institute.

KFUPM also established the City & Regional Planning Advisory Board in 2013-2014 for following up on reviewing the urban planning programs, enhancement of the capacity development for graduates and link with their workplaces. It also targeted filling the gap between the theory and practices through enhancing the relationships and exchange the experiences between college and different parties such as companies and planning offices. Facilitating the flow of information and following up with new developments.

The current Planning Advisory Board Has high official staff from the government and universities who has the authority to form the secondary agencies to perform missions assigned by the Board and also to coordinate between members for meetings and prepare reports and follow up with recommendations.

4) Cooperation Program between King Abdulaziz City of Science and technology (KAST) & International Universities

KAST has established a development plan for the next 20 years based on the capacity building for the students and trainers through different relevant educational centers which educate 1400 students within 2 years and give the opportunities to recruit about 6% of the selected trainees each year.

KAST has developed many applications in different fields by using high technology and developed applications that can identify the population and the percentage of unemployment rate, mobility and attractive area of the cities through watching the indicator of coverage area in the city. It also can produce charts and analysis for the active daily hours through the analysis of the call phone generated, which can produce new indicators such as the religious indicator for those people who are committed to go for 5 times daily prayers through watching the densities of the call phone generated during prayer times.
Summary of discussions

In the seventh session, the following points have been discussed:

Regarding as to whether any training could be offered by Liverpool universities to prepare the new generation for the coming years, it was reported that The University is offering different capacity development trainings for different issues targeting students and graduates persons.

About the best methodology to fill the gap between the planners and implementers, it was said that the gap could be bridged by training & Educational courses for all the segments of Planners, Planning Students and employees of the government and private sectors.

As per the question whether MOMRA can implement their own plans with the incomplete and missing information, it was found that the ministry can face a lot of challenges in the implementation process, however it should go on into the process with the available information, otherwise nothing will be implemented at all because of lack of information.

About the role of the Environmental design college in Jeddah city in the past and for the time being; the College has designed and implemented many projects in the city, it also established the urban simulator lap, and now the college is signing a MEMO with Jeddah Municipality which will produce many important studies.

About the question, on how the analysis produced can be used and how to insure its delivery to the implementer parties; The analysis and studies can be demonstrated to the implementer parties through the specific governmental associations who has cooperation in different field such as MOMRA, ADA and different other ministries.

Achievements of the KFUPM so far: The University has issued different environmental reports to simulate the nature of the eastern region and the petroleum industry in this area. The university also opened the registration for a summer trainings in different specific fields which give high opportunities for the graduates to work in the big constructions companies.

The universities also has other different programs such as the marketing for the students when they join the work field, plus the contribution of the trainers for practicing in the projects they are interested in like ARAMCO.

The role of the universities in the challenges of the increasing population in Riyadh city: 20 years ago, the university published about the negativity of the immigration from the rural areas to the cities. Which will cause a lack of resources. And now we are working on a studied urban growth with insuring the availability of resources and services to the new extensions and also working on attracting people to those areas through establishing new universities and economic centers. In the end, the universities can give recommendations to the government, but still the universities have limited authorities for implementing those recommendations.

Plans from the big companies to invest in the R&D (Research & Development) in the Kingdom: the R&D concept is based on delivering the technology. In KSA, the universities are working on this through big companies to speed up the transformation process in different fields, which are also supported, by the universities.
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The discussions in the seventh session arrived at the following conclusions:

• That the universities always had a greater role in development all over the world, as technology and thinkers start from the universities, therefore the role of universities should be enhanced to be involved not only in giving recommendations but also in the implementation process in different fields including the urban planning.

• The capacity building process should be careful in targeting the specified segment who guarantee to utilize their capacities in the development within the cities.

• That the role of the universities is an educational role and not business profit. The importance of the coordination between the municipal council, the local council, and the regional council.
The eighth session on
NATIONAL URBAN CAMPAIGN
- THE CITY WE WANT -
Objective of the session

The purpose of Urban Campaigns is to rally all Habitat Agenda Partners to the same cause: making cities liveable places for a sustainable future. Campaigns are meant to help catalyse the engagement of all partners that have the potential to articulate pressing urban issues, to propose solutions and commit to shared goals and actions towards Habitat III and beyond.

The main goal of the Urban Campaign is to emphasize positive urban change, recognizing successful initiatives and ‘City Changers’ with the support of the media.

The “National Urban Campaign” session examines the global campaign, and sheds light on local initiatives that tackles some important urban issues, that present an opportunity for the programme to capitalize on the great efforts of these initiatives, by joining forces with them under the umbrella of the National Urban Campaign, towards a better urban future in the Kingdom. The following speakers introduced national urban campaign:

Speakers:

- Mr. Hamad AlOmar
  Public Relations Manager, MOMRA
- Eng. Katja Schifer
  UNHabitat
- Eng. Layan Faisal
  Partners Officer, UNHabitat
- Dr. Abdulaziz AlDusari
  Director, Umran Society
- Mr. Abdulaziz AlOthman
  General Manager, Warif
- Dr. Mohamad AlMufreh
  EKffao
- Ms. Sultana Bint Bader
  Bunyan Charity
- Ms. Rasha AlTurki
  Director, AlNahda Society
Key issues raised by the presenters

1) Role of the Ministry of Municipal & Rural Affairs in National Urban Campaign

In preparation for the Habitat III, and in response to the Ministry’s own strategy, MoMRA has been keen on involving civil society, and encouraging its participation. The ministry has put the “Customer Satisfaction” as one of the main pillars of its new strategy, to achieve this. The ministry involved the opinions of youth in the planning process, through the City Prosperity youth specific indicators, and by launching the National Urban Campaign.

The campaign serves as a vehicle for the ministry for involving civil society, and all partners, in promoting the new Urban Agenda, which is a new model of urban development that is able to integrate all facets of sustainable development to promote equity, welfare and shared prosperity.

2) World Urban campaign and city Changer Initiative

The World Urban Campaign is an advocacy and partnership platform to raise awareness about positive urban change in order to achieve green, productive, safe, healthy, inclusive, and well-planned cities. Its goal is to place the Urban Agenda at the highest level in development policies.

The World Urban Campaign Partners agreed on seven principles which have been driving the WUC and its partners: 1) Accessible and pro-poor land, infrastructure, services, mobility and housing; 2) Socially inclusive, gender sensitive, healthy and safe development; 3) Environmentally sound and carbon-efficient builtup environment; 4) Participatory planning and decision making; 5) Vibrant and competitive local economies promoting decent work and livelihoods; 6) Assurance of non-discrimination and equal rights to the city; 7) and Empowering cities and communities to plan for and effectively manage adversity and change.

The World Urban Campaign serves as the global umbrella, for all the national urban campaigns led by the cities or countries.

3) “Introduction to my city my responsibility”

The purpose of the National Urban Campaign “My city My Responsibility” is, as stated above, to rally all partners to the same cause: making cities liveable places for a sustainable future. The National Urban Campaign comes as a direct response to the need for partnerships between the government and civil society organizations, local authorities, the private sector, the research community, youth and women groups, in order to achieve sustainable urban development.

The National Urban Campaign serves as the global umbrella, for all the national urban campaigns led by the cities or countries.

4) City Changer Competition

"Public Space for All"

Under the National Campaign, The Saudi Umran Society, in collaboration with our programme,
launched a nation-wide university competition reflecting World cities Day 2015 theme: “Public Spaces for All”, and reflects target 7 of the 11th SDG goal “Sustainable Cities and Communities”, which is providing universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities, by 2030.

5) Local Initiatives for the Urban Development of Cities
As part of the National Urban Campaign, Warif launched a social media campaign with the aim to raise awareness of city prosperity through volunteerism, in order to achieve positive urban development. This campaign focuses on youth, and encouraging them as active individuals by offering a number of volunteer work, and community service, in their respective city.

6) Ektaaa
The Model Saudi Neighborhood is the result of Ektaaa Society’s cooperation with the European real estate in the countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which seeks to strengthen governments efforts in providing initiatives that contributes to addressing the humanitarian challenges on economic and sustainable basis.

The Model Saudi Neighborhood is a residential and educational area, which is designed for rehabilitating informal settlements inhabitants, or those who have suffered disasters. The Model Saudi Neighborhood aims for providing a sustainable solution through the following components: 1) Reliance on free solar energy in housing facilities and all the neighborhood for the provision of electricity; 2) find a permanent source of water either by drilling a well or use other possible techniques; 3) construction of housing facilities with specific metal structures and prefabricated buildings that lasts for years and bear permanent use and resistant to weather changes, in addition to the speedy installation, transportation and economic cost; 4) to activate the cadres of the beneficiaries to do all the necessary business, voluntarily or for a fee; 5) the preservation of the environment in all designs and implementation; 6) management of the project aims to rehabilitate each beneficiary to be productive; 7) the time period for beneficiaries is no less than ten years on average.

7) Bunyan Charity Association
Bunyan Charity Association is concerned with the development of families through its different programs, including the supply and development of the houses in which achieved the basics of livability, social and health security. The Charity is also heavily involved in the development of informal settlements, specifically that of AlSibalaa Neighborhood.

AlSibalaa neighborhood is located in central Riyadh, bounded from the east by King Fahad Road and from North by Sibalaa Street and from the west by Asir Street and from the south by Medina Road. The estimated total area is about 400,000 square meters.

The Charity’s overall objective is the development of social, economic and urban environment, through the rehabilitation of the collapsing and decaying old houses, in line with the demographics and the occupancy rate needs, in Al Sibalaa Project.
As well as, enhancing the role of different stockholders contribution towards providing a mix-use development, in alliance with Riyadh planning vision.

8) AlNahda Association
AlNahda is a non-profit association that aims to empower women economically and socially through financial support, training and employment services, they have been heavily involved in the municipal elections, by launching an awareness raising campaign about the electoral process, and by holding training workshop with the target of producing better

Summary of discussions
In the eighth session, the following points have been discussed:

• Revisiting the slogan of the campaign might be necessary as the wording reflects a more Najdi, or central, dialect.
• The importance of continuing ahead of the mapping for the campaign, in a speedy manner;
• The importance of building a database of Civil Society organizations and Women Groups for the region;
• Partnerships is the instrument, or key, towards positive urban change in the Kingdom;
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The debate in the eighth session concluded with following conclusions:

• It is important to collaborate with the already-existing initiatives under the campaign;
• Continuation with the mapping and creating the database of the organizations and groups of each city, and exploring the option of making this data accessible; and
• Importance of securing more partners and further coordination and leadership towards sustainable, prosperous Saudi cities.
The ninth session on
URBAN LAND MANAGEMENT WITH PARTICIPATION OF THE WORLD BANK
Objective of the session

We all live in an urban world. The decisions made today determine cities’ sustainability for years to come.”- Fuad Malakawi. Urbanization should be viewed as an opportunity despite the challenges. It is important as well to learn from best practices in other countries and find ways to apply these practices to the Saudi context.

The World Bank has had a partnership with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs for approximately 9 years and has worked on the National Spatial Strategy in that regards. During the ninth session of the forum focuses on a paper prepared by the World Bank on “Urban Land Management for Sustainable Development”, where four main points were raised: the unique urban moment Saudi Arabia is facing at this time, central concerns regarding urbanization in the city of Riyadh, international experiences in urban land management, and unlocking vacant land for sustainable development in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The following speakers introduced urban land management:

Speakers:

Dr. Fuad Malakawi
World Bank, Senior Urban Specialist

Dr. Ellen Hamilton
World Bank, Lead Urban Specialist

Dr. Olga Kaganova
Lead Land Management Expert

Ms. Annie Bidgood
World Bank, Urban Specialist
1) Urbanization and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Urbanization is necessary and complex, it is important to deal with the situation sooner rather than later. It contributes to countries to grow from low to middle income economies. The richer the city, the denser the city is.

Why is issue specifically being raised now? This is due to the challenging economic situation currently. Resources are getting tight and better planning is needed. The World Bank emphasizes the need for the National Spatial Strategy to be applied properly by all relevant entities in the government. The Government is discussing change and acknowledges the need for it. This opens great opportunities to reimagine the cities of Saudi Arabia and develop them in a sustainable manner.

2) Riyadh Case Study- Urban Sprawl

As a case study, the World Bank has chosen the city of Riyadh (Al Shamal Area). This city is growing but in a highly fragment manner by expanding outwards with low densities which leads to sprawl.

With sprawl comes challenges especially economic challenges. Access to urban land is limited. The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs have requested from the World Bank to support on the NSS especially on the objectives of densification.

The spatial growth of Riyadh was explained. It is considered to be a sprawling city on an international level (37 persons per hectare) being the lowest density.

It was explained that one of the attempts from the government to reduce and contain such sprawl was through setting urban boundaries. Unfortunately this has not had the expected impact. It was estimated that by 2030, continuing in this state, Riyadh would still have a low density (similar to Los Angeles).

There is a disconnection between subdivisions and basic facilities (infrastructure). This poses problems as well for real estate developers as well as an enormous cost for potential residence, as it may be difficult to find job opportunities, education in these remote low density areas which may result in long commutes.

Maintenance for such subdivisions is not affordable for the government as well. In conclusion, sprawl is not socially sustainable. The Government should develop a tool for guiding development.

The existing land-use rules favor low densities, as the current height limits are 2.5 floors and 4 floors in higher density areas. Streets and roads consume 37.1% the city comparing to the city of Paris that has double the amount of population and car usage that has less than 30% of streets.

The cost of land is not the major factor, as studies by Mckinsey show that land is not too expensive in Riyadh in comparison with other countries.

Another issue raised was how the government consumes valuable land in good areas for low-density use. Other major landholders are real estate developers do not develop these vacant lands as the low density results in high costs, adding to that they do not know where the infrastructure will be provided. Therefore, there should be better effective interagency cooperation to allow a sustainable urban development.

3) International Experiences

The World Bank has presented several methodologies from international experiences that would contribute to more sustainable urban land management. Amongst these instruments is providing...
incentives such granting holders of vacant land a density bonus. Another instrument would be the government allowing using their assets land to be used to generate results or revenues for the government. Investing in public infrastructure and transportation generates the value of the land. In the case of Saudi Arabia, there is a great opportunity with the metro and the Transit Oriented Development. It is very important as well to have public-private partnerships. An example given was how a private developer built a public parking in exchange for a lease for municipal land.

4) The Way Forward
The two major issues the Dr. Fuad has summarized the discussion with, are land (regulations and management) and infrastructure (location and capital investment planning) which should be highlighted in the National Spatial Strategy. Regarding the land issue it is important to promote public entities and private developers by creating priority policies. Adding to that, there is a need to encourage higher-density especially in central areas.

The World Bank recommends the engagement of all relevant agencies, and have mentioned that they are currently holding meetings with the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Finance in this regard. They hope that an outcome of this session would be creating a system and mechanism for urban management.

Summary of discussions
In the ninth session, the following points have been discussed:

• Urban sprawl is directly related to mobility and energy systems.
• The need to consider the context of cities when defining sprawl (the difference between sprawl in America and Saudi was mentioned).
• It is necessary to define the densities wanted in Saudi cities.
• Sometimes public/private partnerships can be problematic if the partner is not committed enough to be able to implement.
• Inquiries about the solutions to the problem of misused land owned by the government in order to reuse these lands in a productive manner.
• The need for guidelines. It was asked how this could be applied within the current structure of Riyadh.
• The importance of Transit Oriented Development and providing lands for private sectors to develop projects within the TOD areas.
• There are contradictions regarding urban land matters within the different governmental entities. This issue has to be addressed and a unified approach must be taken.
• The real estate committee in the chamber of commerce have updated data locally and would gladly share this data as well as requested the documents from the World Bank in order to spread awareness.
• Encouraging more agriculture within the city and creating green boundaries.
• The audience questioned if the cultural and social aspect of Saudi Arabia was taken into consideration and stressed on this importance.
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The debate in the ninth session concluded with following conclusions:

• Sprawl is leading to unsustainable cities; hence there is a need to relook at the city and how it can grow in a sustainable pattern.

• The World Bank is working on an urban management project that studies how the space is used as well as the densities.

• There is a need to reopen the discussion concerning governmental projects and the bottleneck of vacant land with the relevant entities, if there is a possibility to allocate even a fragment of these lands reintroduced to the market for investment.

• Introducing incentives to release lands.

• There is a need for new policies. The government can lead by example by introducing these policies and leading in their implementation.

• Reframing urban management. It is difficult to change the current regulatory framework, but tools could be adopted by which changes can be made.

• There is a need for innovative thinking and solution to using lands to meet the needs of the users.

• The current trend that will be implemented for the future is the participation of the private sector.

• The World Bank recommended there could be a balance between social context and requirements and needs. With the current situation specifically in housing, we are starting the see a social transformation but it is up to Saudi to apply global solutions and grow organically yet still reflect their social background.
The ninth session on
URBAN LAND MANAGEMENT WITH PARTICIPATION OF THE WORLD BANK

10
Training session on URBAN TRANSFORMATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Objective of the session

According to Saudi Urban Forum UN-HABITAT in collaboration with MOMRA a work shop in Urban Management and Urban Economy has been arranged. The work shop was on the transformation of Urban Economy of Saudi Arabia. This workshop could help the (FSCP) to develop training programs focused on Urban Economy and Urban management with UN-HABITAT educational partners.

The audience of this workshop is from different Organizations such as Municipalities, Urban Authorities and Privet Sectors.

One of the New Urban Agenda (HABITAT III) is concerned on the Municipal Finance for good cities' management, after the Oil Crises in KSA government prepared the National Transformation Workshops to rethink and create new strategies to strengthen the economy. The aim is to achieve a stronger economy independent of oil. Target groups for this workshop are Municipalities Leaders, Urban Planners, Urban Economist, Private Sectors and Researchers.

The following speakers introduced urban transformation and economic development:

Speakers:

Jan FRANSEN
HIS / Deputy Director

Mishaal ALSHAMARI
MOMRA/ Director of MOMRA
Training Center
1) Urban Economy Transformation
The economy is a transformation machine; the industrial revolution has increased the size of the city and resulted in an extreme growth making today’s cities equivalent to yesterday’s countries leading to significant environmental issues. Shanghai region has a population of 100 million which is three times the population of KSA making it necessary to change and amend policies of economic growth to become more flexible to exponential growth.

Shanghai is a fruitful case which could be compared to saudian cities, the transformation of Shanghai city economy started from the 80s to become a local market city keeping in mind that it used to be a highly entrepreneurial by the communist economy, starting from the 21st century Shanghai became an export economy. City economy could change the urban forms, the extreme growth of Urban Area in some cities since the 20th century such as in Jeddah, the exploration of Oil reflected on Saudi cities.

2) Transition to knowledge economy
Netherlands took 18th place in the field of research and development. The Holland experience is one of the most special in terms of transforming to knowledge economy. Prior to this change the policies have been changed to make the transformation more effective. Policy flexibility is one of the most important points that must be taken into account. Not only economic policies, the urban policies should also be considered.

Netherlands have development zones for knowledge economy regions, each zone complete and connect to the other zones. They have concentrated on the following:
- Clusters and incubation
- Innovation and creativity
- Networks

3) Municipal Sector’s Contribution to the economic development from mayor perspective
This survey was sent to 183 mayors in KSA to observe if Saudi Mayor had the knowledge about Urban Economy.

The results of this study demonstrate that mayors have inadequate knowledge in economy and urban economy. Nevertheless, the mayors are aware of the role of economic development in municipalities and how it can contribute in producing a higher financial income for municipalities especially during the current oil crisis of Saudi Arabia.

Survey analysis shows some of the figures such as:
- Making the economic development and urban economy an important factor in the ministry’s policies.
- Adopting strategies that achieve supporting policies in economic development.
- Training leaders in municipal work in economic development and providing them with the required knowledge and skills.
- Including knowledge in economic development and providing them with municipal leader’s selection standards.
- Integration of authorities related to economic development (ministries, government bodies, private sector, society, etc.)
Summary of discussions

In the workshop, the following points have been discussed:

- Urban economy is one of the most topics considered by members working the municipal sector.
- The transformation of from consumer economy to production economy is the aim of policy makers in government and municipalities.
- Ar-Riyadh development authority has revealed the direction taken by the city of Riyadh in making the policies amendable.
- The ability of free-zone projects by the authority to transform land use based on needs and the authority’s assessment was discussed.
- Every city in the kingdom has a diversity of resources capable of making the city to be economically self-dependent.
- The importance to improve the knowledge in the field of Urban Economy before the Economic transformation process.
- It’s becoming important to revise policies and reform regulations of.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The debate in the workshop concluded with following conclusions:

- Economy and development must be included as part of the municipalities and ministries programs.
- Establishing companies and different governmental institutes is important for economic transformation and for achieving knowledge economy and sustainable development of the cities.
- Increase knowledge in urban economy and city management and to benefit from international past experience in economic transformation.
- Changing policies from centralization to localization is important prior economic transformation. The economic development should be one of the indicators used in assessing municipal performance.
- Cities should be encouraging youth entrepreneur to make them part of economic development.
- Importance to study national and international best practice of economic transformation.
- It’s becoming importing to improve the capacity in authorities’ lined to economic development before the transformation.
- The importance of creating partnership between private and public sector.
- The importance of investing in business cluster.
Workshop one on
HABITAT III AND NEW URBAN AGENDA
Objective of the session

Habitat III is the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. It will take place at Quito, Ecuador, on 17-20 October. The Habitat Conference is held once every 20 years. The speaker discussed the Habitat I-1976 and Habitat II- 1996 and their outcomes. The participants in Habitat III conference will be from many different groups with many agendas on many different topics.

The objectives of the conference are to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development, to assess the 1996 Habitat agenda, to address poverty and identify a new challenge.

The key elements for the agenda is to create a pattern of sustainable urban development area social cohesion and equity, urban frameworks, spatial development, urban economy, urban environment and urban housing.

The sustainable development goals are to discuss the challenge of how cities, villages and rural areas are planned and managed to resume their role in sustainable development and the implementation of the new global development and the climate change goals.

The following speakers introduced new trends in urban planning:

**Speakers:**

- **Eng. Katia Schafer**
  Urban Development Expert at the Regional Office for Arab States in Egypt

- **Dr. Khaled Al Niffaie**
  Assistant Director of Future Saudi Cities Program
1) The new urban agendas
Highlights in the session were the new urban agenda and the national Habitat III report. The new urban agenda was discussed as the rethinking over the issues of embracing urbanization at all levels of human settlements, the integration of equity to the development, fostering national urban planning and planned city extensions, decide how relevant sustainable development goals will be supported through sustainable urbanization and strengthening institutional arrangements with the substantive outcomes of Habitat III. The speaker focused on the new sustainable development for the Arab Regions to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

The three reports for Habitat III for the Arab Region are: The national, regional and the global as follows: The national reports aimed for the Habitat III conference will emphasize the urbanization versus the five different parameters of development, economy, social equity, environment and governance each in separate chapters. The regional reports for the Arab States intended for the Habitat III will be prepared by the regional economic and social commission in collaboration with Habitat Secretariat on the employment, Population Dynamics, environmental and climate changes, equitable access to the cities and urban governance. The global report for the Habitat III that builds on the outcomes and the contents of the national and regional reports. A total of 22 pages on relevant topics were developed by the Habitat III Secretariat and published on Habitat III webpage.

2) The National Habitat III Report.
Further detailing of the National Habitat III report itemized its main contents as six parts of the situation of urban dwellers with the vision of the achievement of a balanced and sustainable urban development for all the regions of the kingdom. Urban planning and land with the vision to implementing criteria for sustainable urban planning and design. The Environment and urbanization with the vision of environmental safety and the wellness of the population can be achieved through the optimal and sustainable use of resources.

Urban Management and Urban Legislation with the vision of a comprehensive and integrated legislative framework is needed for the governance of the urban planning activities in Saudi Cities. Urban Economy with the vision of urban sustainable economy that is in harmony with the components of the city and its inhabitants and that is based on social integration and equal participation in urban development.

Recommendations on the urban economy pledged by the speaker in the session are to support the implementation of decentralization and strengthen municipal capacity; encourage the privatization process and create incentives for local economic development through public-private partnership; incorporate the comparative advantages of cities in the preparation of local urban plans and highlight investment opportunities in the public and private sectors; and encourage the use of the integrated public transport systems in major cities. Housing with the vision of the provision of appropriate and sustainable housing that meets the desires and affordability for the whole society. Recommendations to housing pledged by the speaker in the session are enhance the coherence and integration of urban planning and housing policies, the development of vacant undeveloped land (while land) in urban areas and the support housing finance especially for the neediest families.
Summary of discussions

In the workshop, the following points have been discussed:

• The Opportunities Country Engagement and Participation by delivering Habitat III National Report
• Participating to the Intergovernmental Process
• Sending Suggestions for Policy Units

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The debate in the workshop concluded with following conclusions:

• Support and strengthen the urban - rural links through enhancement of basic tools; strengthening the role of small and medium cities to respond to emerging needs associated with the change in the composition of the population.

• Review the prevailing pattern of urban growth in the light of recent trends; strengthening accountability and transparency in sustainable urban development planning; training and institutional capacity building in urban planning and management of geographic information systems; support the activities and outputs of urban observatories; and improving quality of data and information to support the industrial city planning.

• Adopt principles and policies of “flexible-cities” and integrating in urban planning and improving the readiness of the city for emergency and disaster risk management; implement community-based programs to increase public awareness of the environment; and adopt building designs that increase energy efficiency and the implementation of energy saving technologies.

• Devise a comprehensive system of spatial planning and land management; ensure public participation in policy development at the national, regional and local levels; enable civil society to participate in urban development management; and review the institutional role of Amanat, municipalities and providers of basic services.

• Support the implementation of decentralization and strengthen municipal capacity; encourage the privatization process and create incentives for local economic development through public-private partnership; incorporate the comparative advantages of cities in the preparation of local urban plans and highlight investment opportunities in the public and private sectors; and encourage the use of the integrated public transport systems in major cities.

• Enhance the coherence and integration of urban planning and housing policies; develop vacant undeveloped land (white lands) in urban areas; and support housing finance, especially for the neediest families.
Workshop two on
CITY PROSPERITY INDEX AND URBAN INFORMATION FOR URBAN POLICY MAKING
Objective of the session

The session of the city prosperity index workshop was aimed to reach more key players in the future Saudi cities at the local level within the opportunity of the venue of Saudi Urban forum. It was an opportunity to provide training on the city prosperity index. The floor aimed to grasp primary feedback on the extent of paradigm shift in urban agenda and the extent of its implementation at the CPI initiatives.

The discussions were to focus on how the message of prosperous city can be advocated and how the indicators can be clearly understood and quantified. Quick review of the statistical approach was impeded during the session about how the numerical figures are tangible facts that can be debated in reflection of the main functions of the city.

The session was to elaborate the structure of the CPI and how it is measured by introducing the methodologies linking between the implementation of the concept through dimension that represent the categorized functions of a livable city as part of new urban agenda. The categorized functions are brought through the dimensions of productivity, infrastructure development, Quality of life, Equity and Social Inclusion, Environmental Sustainability and Urban governance and legislation.

The following speakers introduced CPI and urban information for urban policy making:

**Speakers:**

- **Dr. Mohamed Al Ahmed**
  Statistics Consultant

- **Eng. Bader Al Dawsari**
  Urban planning consultant,
  UN HABITAT

- **Mr. John Obore**
  Urban Research Expert,
  UN HABITAT

- **Eng. Ahmed Al Khalagi**
  Makkah Local Urban Observatory

- **Eng. Nasser Al Dhaifir**
  Dammam Local Urban Observatory

- **Eng. Mohammad Alahmari**
  Riyadh Local Urban Observatory
Key issues raised by the presenters

1) CPI methodology and available data in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
The speaker's key points focused on the challenges of placing CPI in practice from the methodology of calculating the indicators to how the indicators are reflected in every city. The speaker also presented the statistics of every city on the stand of the achieved indicators per every dimension. The current stand of the target cities aimed for collecting CPI indicators. The speaker elaborated how every dimension is regarded as a complex indicator drawn from sub dimension indicators. The importance of an accurate urban data, sources,

2) CPI analysis on 6 key cities
The key points of the speaker focused on the course of outreach on the training missions paid to the target cities. The in depth analysis on the City Prosperity Index through experts were provided by the cities. The Roles of the Local Urban Observatories, and the geographic locations and the background of the cities were also introduced.

The key points presented were on the Rapid Assessment Report of the six cities. The presentation reflected on the outputs of the efforts of Local Urban Observatories. The expectation of the CPI index for each city, the outcome from the analysis, strength and weakness of the CPI dimensions assessed in six cities. The reservation of how some indicators can reflect very strong and a radical outcome on the final CPI index. The presenter stressed on the value of the data not collected and how important it can be as a better reflection on representing the final index.

3) Practices in Makkah Local Urban Observatory
The speaker reflected on the hard work spent on the involving high level authorities and experts on the facilitation and the engagement of the city in acquiring the data as well as supporting the initiatives of FSCP. The term of city prosperity as it is coined versus the understanding on rather more positive outcome from the indicators. The presenter reflected the efforts paid to the provision of high priority stand to the initiative with his approach to take the outcome with reservation on how unparalleled it was on the prosperity of the city. The speaker reflected on the environmental sustainability indicator and an outstanding issue on the waste collection mechanism and the way of calculating the city’s waste production. The presenter indicated on how the city of Makkah is awarded WCCD – ISO certification.

4) Practices in Dammam Local Urban Observatory
The speaker mentioned on the how the city has its own indicators numbering more than 176 reflecting on many aspects of the city and how the 52 CPI indicators of Saudi Cities are cross matched. The ease of finding the same indicators from the list of own indicators maintained by the city. The structure of the indicators of Dammam city was not elaborated. The speaker reflected on how their own indicators contribute and reliable guide in policy making.

Speaker mentioned the approval of Central local urban observatory that will supervise cities that have no observatories of their own.

5) Practices in Riyadh Local Urban Observatory
The speaker mentioned the inception of LUO in Riyadh on the Hijri Calendar dating back on 1433. Presented further use of indicators in measuring city prosperity by presenting the mean of several measurements of extremes.

The speaker mentioned on the how the city has its own indicators numbering more than 176 reflecting on many aspects of the city and how the 52 CPI indicators of Saudi Cities are cross matched. The ease of finding the same indicators from the list of own indicators maintained by the city. The structure of the indicators of Dammam city was not elaborated. The speaker reflected on how their own indicators contribute and reliable guide in policy making.

Speaker mentioned the approval of Central local urban observatory that will supervise cities that have no observatories of their own.
Summary of discussions

In the workshop, the following points have been discussed:

- At the conclusion of the presentation, the audience raised several questions. The makeup of the audience reflected members of the local urban observatories of some of the reflected cities in Rapid Assessment Report, members from the academic community, researchers and official of some of the cities.

- Questions raised mainly challenged on the methodology of calculating the indicators. Some members sought clarifications on the transportation indicators. Others on the reduction of the original number of the indicators.

- Taking the inverse value of some indicators.

- The interactive dialogue clarified the extent of awareness of the CPI in the cities. However, the depth of the reflection of CPI on the overall urban agenda was and it is structured was not clearly contemplated in the discussion. The expectation of a positive outcome from the CPI was a natural reaction. However, the negative outcomes were not anticipated, as the term of prosperity is partly confusing as a measurement of a positive outcome only.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The debate in the workshop concluded with following conclusions:

- The outcome clarified the extent of outreach and the awareness of the CPI in the attendees. Most interested attendees on the CPI reflected on the academic researchers and members of some of the local urban observatories. The interested participants in a change of paradigm showed at the boot of UN habitat some of them participated in the workshop session. The paradigm shift and the implementation of a new urban agenda seems a welcomed initiative.

- The inclusion of the academic community and especially the young researchers needs to be given a platform in the local urban observatories.
14 Workshop two on
THE ROLE OF YOUTH AND CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Objective of the session

The workshop was a panel to discuss the role and aspirations of youth and women in shaping the future of the future cities in the Kingdom, with participation of a number of experts to review some of the relevant international experience, followed by an open dialogue to a group of Saudi youth of both gender. The following speakers introduced new trends in urban planning:

Speakers:

Mr. Abdulrahman Al Rashid  
Elixir Management Consultancy

Dr. Zeyad Aazam  
Assistant Deputy Minister for regional Development

Prof. Mardiya Bardisi  
King Saud University

Eng. Nadia Bakhurji  
UN-Habitat

Mr. Hammam Al Graid  
Head of EKHAA NGO

Eng. Hassan AlHakmi  
Al-Ghad Youth Association

Eng. Sultan Al Gehni  
Al-Ghad Youth Association

Ms. Turkiyah Al Turki  
Al-Ghad Youth Association
Key issues raised by the presenters

1) Elixir
Mr. Abdulrahman Al Rashid started the workshop by highlighting the needs for having continues civic participation which widely effect on the sustainable urban planning process and deliver and considered as a link between the society, Implementer and stake holders.

2) MOMRA
Dr. Zeyad Aazam started the speech by mentioning the three main pillars of social participation which are the governmental sector, the private sector and the social sector. He also explained the roles for each sector in the sustainable development process. Plus elaborating the definition of social participation which is based on the knowledge, connections and sustainability.

3) King Saud University
Dr. Mardiyah Al Bardisi demonstrated some cases in different Saudi cities analysis such as Abha and Riyadh city, the study she demonstrated was built on the swat analysis which raised the strong role for the social engagement in both cities in terms of developing the infrastructure networks and the Preservation of cultural heritage spatial characteristics.

4) UN-HABITAT
Eng. Nadia Bakhurji talked about the women participation on the planning process which lead to the humanitarian cities concept. She also gave some analysis to the increasing of working women in the coming few years and how the countries should be prepared to utilize their capacities and engage them into the development process to fulfill the needs of the different segments of the community.

5) EKHAA
The speaker started his speech with mentioning some Islamic and religious examples that reflect the concept of the social inclusion and social integration. He also raised the role of the community in the development process and the importance of includes all the different sectors to reach the sustainable cities.

6) Al-Ghad Youth Association
Eng. Hassan mentioned the social inclusion is reflecting the needs of all segment of society. He also stressed on importance of the environmental and recreational sides during the rapid growth of the population and houses inside the cities, especially that the youth percentage for the total population is now about 60%.

Eng. Hassan mentioned that the majority of the Saudi youth are preferring to spend their vacations abroad as they find tourism and cultural opportunities in the other cities outside the Kingdom, and this should encourage the kingdom to transform its cities in the same level of those cities.

Eng. Sultan mentioned that the environmental sustainability should contain two factors which are the Human comfortable and the urban performance.

He also mentioned that the environmental sustainability is a main condition for attracting capitals for mega projects that generate another big projects.

Eng. Sultan demonstrated the initiatives of MOMRA in attracting new project with preserving the identity of the heritage culture and environmental sustainability in the Saudi cities.

Ms. Turkiyah’s speech demonstrated the important role of the woman in the society which doesn't only reflect the women's needs but also the children’s needs.

She also raised the issue of the increasing number of the female students who will need future opportunities for participating in the sustainable development process.
Summary of discussions

In the first session, the following points have been discussed:

In the end of the Workshop, the participants discussed the role of youth and civil society Institutions in urban development. The questions raised were the delivery of the voices of the community towards the decision maker's panels, empowerment of women in the Saudi cities, the figures of unemployed female and the opportunities they can get, the future Saudi cities in the next five years, examples of successful cases in female participation, the nearest chances for Ar-Riyadh Development Authority can recruit female engineers, and the possibility of allocating funds for the NGO's.

The outcome of the discussion towards the concerns were for instance, the use of neighborhood centers and the local councils for raising the community voices, the results of the training and partnership programs intended for female engineers for 10 years ago, the engagement of women in different projects as in enrichment for those projects reflecting successful social dimensions and experiences. The discussion also highlighted the promise at the government level female can work in the urban planning and development plans in the cities, the expanding strategy of female educational facilities. In other instances the promises of the future cities mentioned cities to be more inclusive for recreational, pedestrian path ways, as well as the participation for youth and women in community development.

In the discussions, it was mentioned in an answer to one of the questions, that there are too many different cases which cared about engaging women into enhancing small and medium projects to give them opportunities to proof their skills and capacities. In addition, the women engagement in any project are completing the whole needs as mentioned before that the woman are completing man and reflecting the children's need in the planning process. In the time being we should involve more the women in the development process to achieve all women's ambitious. Since 2010 there are many attempts and ideas for offering vacancies to women. There was also a raised idea for engaging women in Female's schools and universities maintenance to avoid men going inside female students buildings.

For the NGO's funding issues, The participatory approach for funding NGOs are already launched years ago and it is still working in participation of different association such as the Ministry of economy & planning and MOMRA, In addition to the role of the private sector in activating the economy, the public participation and productivity. Now there are thinking more to activate the social participation itself to give a sustainability for the concept instead of thinking only for the way of funding.
Forum declaration

“TOWARDS A NEW URBAN AGENDA”
AND PREPARATORY STEPS FOR THE
PARTICIPATION TO THE THIRD UN
CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND
SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT
( HABITAT III )
Closing remarks

At the closing session of the first Saudi Urban Forum, Dr. Abdulrahman Bin Hassan Al-Sheikh, Deputy Minister for Town Planning expressed his gratitude for the strong commitment of partners those who are from ministries, regional and local governments, development authorities, universities, institutions, NGOs, private sector and others to the forum. The deputy minister also stated that he was witnessed the great success of the forum with enormous numbers of participation that reached around 2,000 throughout the forum. The deputy minister believed that the success was only achieved by the strong support of all stakeholders and experts who engaged in the forum; and the conclusions and recommendations described into the forum declaration will benefit the people of the country.

The history of cooperation between Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs (MOMRA) and UN-HABITAT dated back to the World Urban Forum 6 (WUF6) in Naples, Italy in 2012 hosted by UN-HABITAT. Through the engagement to the WUF6, the Government recognized a necessity of having support of UN-HABITAT to respond rapid urban growth and emerging challenges resulted by the urban expansion in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In addition, the Government also noticed an importance of hosting National Urban Forum in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to address urban challenges, and to find policy directions and solutions to achieve sustainable urbanization of cities and towns in the country.

Therefore, MOMRA and UN-HABITAT launched a new programme named on “The Future Saudi Cities Programme” in 2014, and supporting urban planning reviews, formulation of urban policies and legislations, utilization of urban information, institutional capacity development, and empowerment of people’s engagement, particularly women and youth.

Today, the first Saudi Urban Forum has been successfully closing and numbers of fertile ideas and solutions delivered that can generate valuable suggestions to National Transformation Program that aims at tackling to achieve effective and efficient government operations.

In addition, MOMRA has currently been engaging in the preparation of the third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development called “HABITAT III,” which will be hosted in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016; and the achievements of this forum will support the active role of the Government of Saudi Arabia to respond New Urban Agenda. As national delegations, representatives of MOMRA, Ministry of Planning and Economy, Ministry of Housing and Ministry of Foreign Affairs will attend HABITAT III.

At the end of the forum, the Government announced a drafted of Forum Declaration and encouraged to comments on the declaration so that the document will be finalized within weeks.
Declaration of Saudi Urban Forum

Sum up the discussions, suggestions and recommendations at the forum, Forum Organization Committee declared 17 key issues to be considered for actions of the Government to respond emerging urban challenges:

1. Establish and strengthen a foundation of institutional corporation among MOMRA, local governments and development partners to achieve sustainable urbanization in Saudi cities;
2. Enhance partnership with universities, NGOs and private sectors to respond the needs of urban renewals and sustainable development for Saudi cities;
3. Strengthen urban legislation and urban policies including the formulation of Law on Spatial Planning to respond urban expansion horizontally and vertically and control urban sprawl, and to create livable environment for residents;
4. Upgrade institutional capacity in MOMRA, municipalities and NGO's in the field of urban planning; and encourage active cooperation with Saudi universities as well as international universities and institutions;
5. Underline importance of the policies and actions on urban economy that increase productivity of respective city and stimulate job generation for residents;
6. Enhance responsive capacity of the governments for natural and man made disasters;
7. Expanding and enhancing the Future Saudi Cities Programme to include medium and small cities for the second phase of the programme;
8. Improve urban management and ensure adequate urban planning processes for drafting, implementation, and reviewing plans for Saudi cities;
9. Active utilization of social medias to support sustainable urban development;
10. Ensure active role of Local Urban Observatories to produce, publish and update urban data in city level, share urban data to relevant stakeholders and partners;
11. Consideration and inclusion of the theme on cultural and natural heritages into sustainable development of Saudi cities;
12. Ensure the interactive relationship between universities and research centers to respond urban challenges and the transform to sustainable cities;
13. Emphasize the importance of women's participation in different urban development process in Saudi cities;
14. Encourage Saudi youth to formulate and implement their innovative ideas and initiatives in their cities through the urban campaign “My city my responsibility”;
15. Utilize international experiences and best practices in the field of urban development and reflect urban development programme in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;
16. Support formulation of urban planning system set in MOMRA, including management of urban development to achieve the welfare for cities residence; and
17. Holding National Urban Forum every two years to discuss urban policy direction and support urban development in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
Comments and suggestions on the Forum Declaration

The following key comments and suggestions raised by the forum participants to the declaration:

- Importance of considering cultural diversity of the country and support active engagement of local communities;
- Importance of listening more voices of youth and children;
- Including encouragement of engagement of the people in special needs;
- Primary education on urban planning and sustainable development to be included into early educational stage (school curriculum);
- Importance of public transport to improve business environment and to create job opportunities in medium and small cities;
- Including engagement of cooperative societies as a partner and a stakeholder;
- Including a key important theme on "Mobilization and Utilization of Valuable Vacant Land" in cities by charging fees or applying other alternative schemes;
- Including a standard of livable city and apply livability framework;
- Include environment friendly policy particularly for children and elderly;
- Anticipate shortage of experts to respond urban challenges;
- Importance of the formulation of research institutes (Center of Urban Development) to achieve sustainable development. The institute should take a substantive role to respond urban challenges while universities provides basic surveys;
- A technical committee to be launched to follow up recommendations and the declaration;
REPORT ON SAUDI URBAN FORUM 2016
Under the theme of Modern Trends on Urban Planning