



The Urban Unit Shifts Venue

The Urban Unit has been working at 4/ B Lytton Road, Lahore since its inception in 2006. The success of the Urban Unit during the last seven years has led to the expansion of both the scope of its services and human resources pool. To address the growing needs of its expanded operations and to groom a new image and outlook, the Urban Unit has been relocated to Office # 503, 5th Floor, Shaheen Complex, Egerton Road, Lahore with effect from 1st of March.



The Urban Unit Develops Monitoring Solution for Election Code of Conduct Violations

Keeping its tradition to provide technology based solutions for improved governance in the province; the Urban Unit has developed and established a web based system to enable the home department to monitor “Election Code of Conduct” violations in real time. The application will help district administrations to respond in a better and coordinated way in the face of election violations and to ensure fair play during the election campaign. The Urban Unit team also organized a training programme on the use of this application for system analysts/ IT personnel of all the districts of Punjab on Sunday 7th of April at the Urban Unit office in City Tower, Lahore. The application has been installed in their android cell phones for its successful implementation. They were also provided with a user guide to facilitate them in the use of the application in future.



System Analysts/IT Specialists attending the training

Editor's Post

“It is extremely heartening to know the ever expanding growth of Urban Unit and its valuable work for imparting education to the urban sector managers and promoting good governance in our country. The contribution of the Urban Unit will certainly contribute to elevating the quality of life of our people. Do keep it up.

I wish the Urban Unit success in all its endeavors.”

Dr. Khalil A. Qureshi

President, Pakistan Materials Research Society, Islamabad

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Induction Training Program for the 2nd Batch of Town Officers (P & C)

The induction training of 10 newly recruited Town Officers (Planning & Coordination) was organized by the Urban Unit within its own premises from 21st January to 2nd February. The training mainly comprised lectures by renowned urban sector professionals and executives from the governing and coordinating entities, moderated discussion sessions, documentaries on urban issues and field visits to TMAs.

Important themes covered in the training included planning, conservation and governance in TMAs such as Land Use Rules, revenue record management, human resource management, municipal finance, urban sustainability, master planning and public litigation.

More than 25 resource persons from different urban sector government departments and private organizations acted as trainers including Mr. Nadeem Aslam Ch. (Director General LG&CD), Dr. Ghulam Abbas Anjum (Chairman City and Regional Planning Department, UET), Dr. Rizwan Naseer (Director General, Punjab Emergency Service, 1122), Mr. Mehmood Tammana (Executive District Officer

Municipal Services, CDGL), Ms. Saman Rai (DS Development, LG&CD) and Mr. Raja Jahangir Anwar (Additional Secretary, LG&CD).

The trainees were awarded certificates of completion in the closing ceremony chaired by Dr. Saqib Aziz, the then Special Secretary Local Government Department Punjab.

In his address, Dr. Nasir Javed, the CEO of the Urban Unit narrated the trail of the Urban Unit's efforts for raising the bar of the urban sector human resource capacity in Punjab.

The two members of the previous batch of TOs Mr. Ramin Chaudhry and Ms. Zahra Nasreen also shared their memories and gave practical suggestions based on their field experiences.

The trainee officers will assume their duties in different Tehsil Municipal Administrations (TMAs) of Punjab to perform tasks such as spatial planning, land use control, building control and coordination of development plans and projects. The appointment of TOs will contribute to better urban planning and human resource capacity development of their respective municipalities.

Solid Waste Management Plan for Gujranwala City

The Urban Unit is developing the Solid Waste Management Master Plan for Gujranwala City through the technical and financial assistance of JICA. The Signing Ceremony was held on 20th of February. Mr. Takatoshi Nishikata (Chief Representative JICA Pakistan Office), Mr Sikandar Sultan Raja (Secretary LG&CDD), Mr Najam Ahmed Shah (DCO Gujranwala) and officials from the Urban Unit were present on the occasion.



The signing ceremony with JICA team

The project aims at developing a comprehensive system of waste management for Gujranwala city, capacity building of the local stakeholders and technology transfer. The urban unit team is working with waste managers of city district government Gujranwala and JICA experts on this project that will directly benefit more than 1.8 million city residents by improving the environment, human health and economic conditions of Gujranwala.

The Urban Unit Designs GIS Based Application for Literacy and Public Health Engineering Departments

Literacy and Non Formal Basic Education Department

The Urban Unit has facilitated Literacy and Non-formal Basic Education Department by developing SMS based system for tracking the attendance of students in non formal schools and monitoring and inspection of the field staff working on different projects. The system has become operational with the latest GIS based technology and its web based interface. It has resulted in reduced student absenteeism in the non-formal education sector, increased accountability and

community oversight and better school management system. The system is expected to ameliorate the situation in rural districts of Punjab where the high rate of student and staff absenteeism in the non-formal sector is the main cause of poor literacy rate. The application will help the department in its efforts to mainstream the children from non-formal education sector into formal system, improve the adult literacy in terms of quality, quantity and income generating skills and impart literacy to the marginalized segments of the society. In his letter of thanks to Dr. Nasir Javed, the CEO of the Urban Unit, Dr. Pervez Ahmad Khan, Secretary of Literacy and Non Formal Basic Education Department wrote:

“I am highly appreciative of the efforts and initiatives of the Urban Unit for sharing their expertise and enhancing the capacity of the Department. Kindly communicate my thanks to your whole team.”

Public Health Engineering Department

The Urban Unit, in association with the World Bank's Water and Sanitation Program of South Asia, has developed a GIS and SMS based application for Community Based Organizations that are operating and maintaining a number of water supply and sewerage/ drainage schemes in rural areas of Punjab. The application allows all the CBOs send simple SMS with information on different performance and functional indicators and enables Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) to receive data on indicators such as water supply, number of connections, connection fees etc. Entirely automated communication mediums are used for real time updation of the database which can be viewed through a web based interface. The key benefits include easy, quick, cost effective and transparent monitoring of all the 4058 rural Water Supply Schemes in Punjab and GIS based complaint management system. The application is expected to increase community participation and empowerment for sustainable water supply and sanitation by using the advantage of high mobile phone penetration (68%) in Pakistan.

The Urban Unit Conducts GIS based Surveys of Punjab Industrial Estates

The Urban Unit is facilitating the Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC) to launch GIS based surveys of all the core industrial centers in Punjab.

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The exercise is in the initial stages of data collection and will cover all the 21 industrial estates that PSIC manages in 7 key districts in the province – Bahawalpur, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Lahore, Multan, Rawalpindi and Sargodha.

As part of the capacity building component, the Urban Unit is providing the requisite technical and human resources for designing the study, data collection, management and analysis. On the basis of this study, a comprehensive spatial database will be developed by geo-referencing each industrial unit. Some of the key non-spatial attributes will include an inventory of industrial production strengths and the type and quantum of waste generated. The planning standards and guidelines will be formulated within the strategy framework. This database will help plan the industrial estates in proper way, improve the services, promote investment in industrial estates and at the same time improve the overall environment of these estates. Based on this data, the industrial land use typology will eventually be developed for land reservation and the provision of standards and location guidelines for industrial developments including development parameters and planning criteria such as plot size and ratio, site coverage, workers' density, traffic engineering requirements and supporting facilities.

As part of the stakeholders' consultation and information dissemination, PSIC in collaboration with the Urban Unit organized a workshop at the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 15th of December, 2012. The Urban Unit team, working on the project, presented the objectives of the study and the methodology for data collection to the participants and conducted the consultative session on the expected outcomes of the survey. The field team has completed the surveys in Lahore and Gujranwala, Sialkot, Faisalabad and Multan Divisions. This initiative is being carried out under the supervision of Dr. Kiran Farhan, who has a background in Environmental Engineering and a PhD in Solid Waste Management, and Mr. Ehsan Saqib – GIS Development Specialist at the Urban Unit.

Sind Government Delegation Visits the Urban Unit

A four member delegation of the Sind government officials visited the Urban Unit, Lahore on 4th to 8th of March. The basic purpose of the visit was to see the functioning of different sectors of the Urban Unit

especially its GIS sector. The participants were given presentations on different initiatives and the Urban Unit's role in promoting urban development on modern lines. They appreciated the multi-sectoral approach and development work being done by the Unit and provision of solutions to different governance issues especially those involving GIS and web based technologies. The delegation also visited Arfa Kareem Software Technology Park in Lahore to view the operations of Command and Control Center and Intelligent Transport System for Lahore Metro Bus that has been successfully installed and commissioned by the Urban Unit team. The delegates were of the opinion that there were many useful lessons to be learnt from the Urban Unit model for their replication in Sind for better urban development and municipal services.

The Officers of 40th Common Program Visited the Urban Unit

About 15 probationary officers belonging to various occupational groups of the 40th batch of the CSS Officers undergoing 'Common Training' at the Civil Services Academy Lahore visited the Urban Unit on 16th and 17th of December, 2012. The objective of this activity was to sensitize the probationary officers about the need for integrity, discipline and effectiveness for optimization of public welfare and providing improved service delivery to the people - particularly the poor and the disadvantaged.

The officers spent the first day in the Urban Unit office. They studied in detail working of the different sectors. Senior specialists of various sectors gave detailed presentations to the officers on their respective sectors, ongoing projects and future growth plans. At the end of the day, the officers visited different sections at the Urban Unit including GIS Labs, Scanning Section, Library, Audio/Visual Room, Learning Resource Centre, Administration and Sector Blocks. On the



Mr. Fawad Saeed of the Urban Unit delivering his presentation

second day, the officers visited the Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) head office at Shaheen Complex, Lahore. The Managing Director, LWMC gave a detailed presentation on the company's scope and operating procedures. They learnt about the practical implementation of innovative new system of solid waste management in Lahore. In the afternoon the officers visited WASCO office and "Changa Pani Project" aimed at community level management of water supply and sanitation schemes in low income areas of Union Council 60, Lahore. The officers were also sensitized on the role of the Urban Unit in addressing the problems of the disadvantaged and marginalized segments of the society and briefed on the Unit's work at the service delivery level. They appreciated the Urban Unit's role in introducing various

The course has been designed to be a mix of lectures, presentations, discussions and interactive field visits. The specialists in the field both from within and outside the Urban Unit assured the quality of each topic covered in the course. The Urban Unit has received a very positive feedback from the trainee officers. The CSA administration intends to offer the course on regular basis.

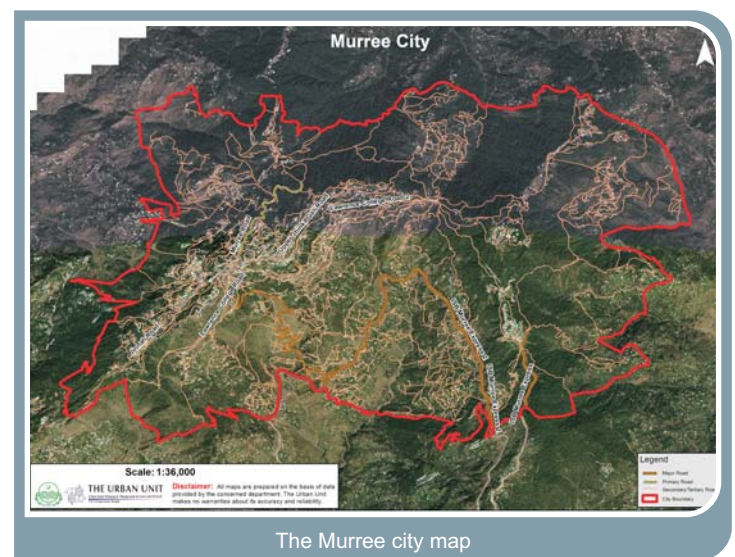
This initiative is in line with the Urban Unit's endeavor to build synergies and inter and intra sector linkages for effective human resource and expertise development in the country. The Urban Unit will be coordinating a similar course at Cantonment Institute of Management and Land Administration (CIMLA) starting from 1st May.

Urban Planning and Development Course for Civil Services Academy (CSA)

Ms. Nadia Qureshi, the Urban Architect at the Urban Unit coordinated a full-fledged course on Urban Planning and Development as part of the Specialized Training Program (STP) at Pakistan Administrative Services (PAS) campus of Civil Services Academy, Lahore. STP is a 10 months residential program for the newly recruited officers of Pakistan Administrative Service.

The objective of the course was to apprise the officers on the relevant areas of urban planning, development and management. The course will enable the trainees to work effectively within the planning and development sectors in urban contexts at policy or field levels and develop a deeper understanding of the processes that generate urban change. The course will also enhance their diagnostic and strategic capacities to respond to such change within the framework of urban governance.

Consultative Session on Murree Byelaws Held in the Urban Unit



The Murree city map

The draft Murree Byelaws have been developed by the Urban Unit. A one day consultative workshop of professionals from private sector and Local Government Departments was arranged at the Urban Unit office to get professional feedback on the proposed Murree Byelaws. The session was conducted by Dr. Nasir Javed, the Chief Executive Officer of the Urban Unit. The consultative meeting was attended by eminent officials, town planners and professionals including Dr. Ghulam Abbas Anjum, Mr. Muhammad Aslam Nadeem, Mr. Muhammad Aslam Mughal, Mr. Khalid Hassan Lodhi, Mr. Shaukat Jamal Khawaja, Mr. Tariq Manzoor and others.



A training session at PAS campus

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The participants put forward important suggestions for improvement in the byelaws keeping in view of the future needs of the area and achieving the aim of smart urban planning and sustainable development in Murree.

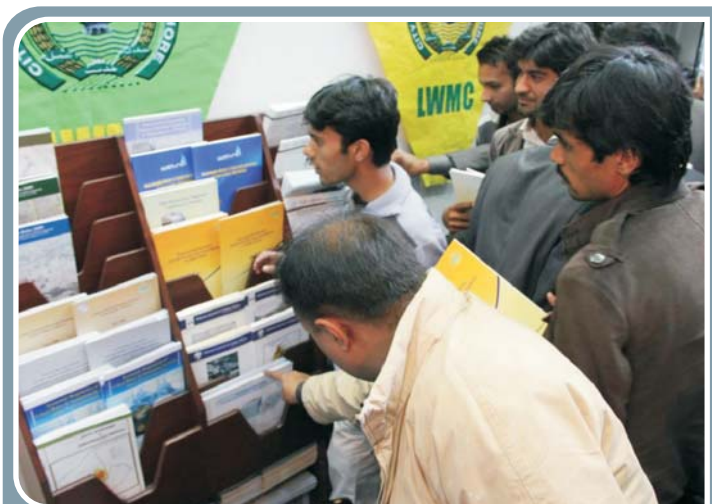
The Urban Unit Participates in Lahore International Book Fair



Mr. Umair Saeed of the Urban Unit giving his comments to a TV channel

The Urban Unit and Lahore Waste Management Company established their joint stall at the 27th annual Lahore International Book Fair from 14th to 18th of February at Expo Center Johar Town Lahore.

The purpose was to portray the Unit's work for sustainable urban development and raise awareness of the general public on pertinent themes through publications and other resource material. The UU team actively responded to different queries made by the visitors and imparted knowledge and information on key urban development & planning issues.



Visitors showed keen interest in Urban Unit publications

The theme of the five day book fair was Education for All; Books for Peace. The event was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Punjab and attended by more than 700,000 people including people from other cities of Pakistan and foreign delegates.

The Urban Unit Becomes Member of IMF E-Library

The Urban Unit is the first and only institution of Punjab government which has subscribed to International Monetary Fund's E-library. The E- Library simplifies analysis and research with direct access to the IMF's periodicals, books, working papers and studies, and data and statistical tools. The researchers and institutions can find information and perspective on macroeconomics, globalization, development, aid and trade, technical assistance, demographics, policy advice on emerging markets, poverty reduction and much more.

The Urban Unit continues to provide the state of the art tools and information resources to its staff and researchers from other institutions to promote generation of knowledge and dialogue for modern urban planning and development in Pakistan.

Research Papers on Disaster Management Applications Presented at 45th IEP Convention

The Urban Unit team members presented research papers the 45th IEP Convention 2012 which highlighted the array of the Unit's work in GIS sector especially its web-based applications for disaster and municipality management. Electro-Mobile (EM) Governance was introduced through these papers which facilitates decision makers in different public domains especially in the disaster management and response.

The convention was organized by the Institute of Engineers Pakistan (IEP) in collaboration with NED University of Engineering and Technology to provide an opportunity to the Engineers' Community to discuss the current and contemporary issues for "building a Better World". The inauguration ceremony of the 45th IEP convention was chaired by Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan.

Ms Hina Ibrar presented paper on Real Time Integrated Disaster Management System (RIDMAS) which



IEP session chaired by Dr. Abdul Qadir Khan

facilitates the decision makers to make a proper response in case of disasters by providing them reliable and precise information. The Urban Unit has developed expertise in Real-time Integrated Disaster Management System (RIDMAS) which is a combination of Geographic Information System (GIS) along with Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to meet the needs of precise disaster management in a participatory manner. It facilitates the administrative authorities to take important decisions in an efficient and transparent manner for rescue, rehabilitation, response and recovery functions.

Ms. Farah Rashid presented her paper on Emergency Response Geo-Meeting System, a Real-Time Participatory Spatial Decision Support Tool in Disaster. It is a web-based real-time application designed to support live meetings, effective decision making, response planning, discussions and many other tasks in a synchronous manner. ERGMS provides a platform to police, fire brigade, municipality and disaster management authorities to acquire, process and analyze data judiciously, alleviate the effects of crises, coordinate the response and thus reduce suffering. The paper focused on public participation and geo-collaboration. By utilizing geospatial ERGMS application, relevant personnel can locate damaged

buildings and injured residents for prompt response immediately after the disaster.

Ms Sana Khushi presented her paper on Design and Evaluation of GIS Based Real Time Municipality Management System (RTMMS) which is used for analysis of municipality management issues, like solid waste, water drainage situation, waste disposal, recycling etc to improve municipality system. The focus of her research paper was to show the effectiveness of the system for visualization of water drainage situation in Lahore and its benefits for the decision makers. The RTMMS efficiency, interesting feature, likability and group feedback were presented with the help of statistical software.

The participants showed keen interest in the Urban Unit's work in GIS sector and asked questions on its application and replication in different urban sectors and disaster management.

Mr. Awais Azhar Attended Architecture Convention in India

The Urban Unit team member, Mr. Awais Azhar attended the 55th Annual National Association of Students of Architecture Convention at the Gateway College of Architecture and Design in Sonipat, India from 25th to 28th of January. He was invited to represent Pakistan and participate in the Archumen Quiz Competition.

The Convention was attended by architecture students, academics and researchers from fine arts and architecture institutions of India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka and other countries of the region. Prominent architects and professionals including Ar. Christopher Benninger, Dr. Anupama Kundoo, Prof. Anil Laul and others gave lectures and conducted workshops on a vast array of relevant themes and issues.



The participants of IEP convention gathered together



Mr. Awais Azhar during the convention



Guest Lecture on Urban Planning at CIMLA



Ms. Sanie Zahra delivering her lecture in CIMLA

Ms. Sanie Zahra, the Senior Urban Planner of the Urban Unit delivered a lecture on issues of mega cities at Cantonment Institute of Management & Land Administration (CIMLA) on 21st of February.

She covered different issues of Urban Planning, Internal Migration, Transportation, Solid Waste Management and Water & Sanitation especially in the perspective of Lahore which has yet to achieve a mega city status.

She said that rapid and unplanned urbanization was being caused by an influx of migrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and India and lesser developed areas for education or jobs.

The immigrant population had not only added new dynamism to the cities' culture but it had also contributed to ethnic tensions and rivalries, which at times resulted in deadly violence.

High pollution from outdated modes of transportation and the lack of regulation over land use are becoming major problems in cities like Karachi and Lahore which needed to be controlled and checked.

She urged that if Lahore had to maintain its historical aura, its physical infrastructure would have to be maintained and modernized especially its housing and transport sectors.

The Urban Unit Team Participates in NUST Training on Composting Technology

A five member Urban Unit team attended the training course on Composting Technology from 6th to 8th March at the Center for Waste Management of National University of Science and Technology (NUST) in Islamabad.

The team members got an overview of modern Solid Waste Management (SWM) techniques such as Windrow Composting, Aeration Windrow Composting, Bag Composting, Vermi Composting, Home Composting technologies and their implementation.

The purpose of the course was to provide knowledge and skills on SWM at macro level which had been an important environmental and municipal services issue. Composting is a promising option especially for countries like Pakistan where waste has higher portion of organics, land is economical and climate is favorable.

Renowned SWM experts, Mr. Azhar Ali and Mr. Muhammad Khalid were the main trainers who had an extensive exposure to theory and practice of the subject including the latest composting techniques available today.



The Urban Unit team along with other delegates at NUST

Call for Papers

Pakistan Journal of Urban Affairs, Urban Unit's quarterly research journal, welcomes submission of papers from scholars, practitioners, researchers and public sector professionals.

For more details: <http://www.pjua.gov.pk/>