

6th International Conference on Urban and regional Planning: Cities and the Poor

The 6th International Conference on Urban and Regional Planning (CURP 2022) was scheduled to be held in Karachi, Pakistan on 18th -19th November 2022 focusing on the theme of **'The City and the Poor'**. The concluding session was on theme of sustainable cities and the urban poor under the ambit of UNESCO chair "Sustainable Urban Regions" which was chaired by Prof. Dr. Noman Ahmed Network Coordinator UNESCO Chair and was in line with the theme of SGG#11 "Sustainable Cities and Communities. The conference was organized by the Department of Architecture and Planning, NED University of Engineering and Technology and UNESCO Chair "Sustainable Urban Regions" on 18th-19th November 2022 in City Campus.



1. Summary of Highlights of Conference

The debates and discussions for technical sessions for the conference were focused on the issues of the marginalised existence of the underprivileged masses struggling for sustenance on a daily basis.

Eight research papers were presented under the themes of 'Social Inclusivity of Poor Communities' and 'Spatial Planning and Development Stance', along with other reports.

Dr Josephine Baell, emeritus professor and distinguished research fellow, London School of Economics, reflected in her keynote address on the formal and informal workers in municipal solid waste management in the cities of Faisalabad and Karachi.

Researcher SMM Sanjune from Sri Lanka presented via video link about the dumping of the urban poor of Colombo into high-rise buildings by the government after it recognised the value of the land they lived on. Researchers from Bangladesh pointed out the spatial discriminations that were carried out against the urban poor in Dhaka, while those from India discussed the benefits of pro-market reforms in alleviating poverty.

2. Summary of Declaration of Conference

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tufail, Pro Vice Chancellor NED University, mentioned in his presiding remarks that urban planning, particularly of old cities like Karachi, is a complex issue, and an integrated approach should be adopted by combining the engineering aspects and the social aspects of the masses.

During the concluding session of the conference, Prof Dr Noman Ahmad, Dean Architecture and Management Sciences at the NED University, briefed audiences about UNESCO Chair "Sustainable Urban Regions" established at the university.

He briefed the conference attendees about the objectives of the chair, including dedication of research and projects of students across all disciplines to attain Sustainable Development Goal SDG#11, which aims to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable by integrating with other SDGs.

"We intended to bring together professionals working in fields related to sustainable development and practices, and we intended to make the students and university researchers benefit from their experiences, the present conference being one small activity in that direction."

3. Keynote Speakers

- i. Prof. Dr. Josephine Beall, Emeritus Professor and distinguished Research Fellow, London School of Economics
- ii. Ar. Kamil Khan Mumtaz

4. Top Research Papers

- i. Rewarding Resilience or Trashing the Poor? Reimagining 'the Public' in Urban Solid Waste Management in Pakistan" by Prof. Dr. Josephine Baell,
- ii. "Study of Urban Challenges in Karachi from the Perspective of its Poor Communities", Lead researcher Arif Hasan and Team, Presented by Amal Hashim
- iii. "The Langar: People's History of Hunger" by Dr. Noman Baig

5. Any other important Information

The event was physically held as well as live streaming enabled professionals to join virtually. The event received coverage in almost 17 local newspapers in Urdu, English and Sindhi Languages. Selected papers of the conference will be published in Bi-annual Journal of Research in Architecture and Planning, of Department of Architecture and Planning NED University.



Sustainable Urban Regions

