



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

—Margaret Mead

SHEHRI

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WATER SECTOR IN KARACHI PLANNING AHEAD

Farhan Anwar highlights the issues and concerns related with the water sector in Karachi and suggests recommendations for service improvement and institutional reforms.

KW&SB, the main formal service delivery institution, faces a crisis rooted in a lack of accountability, transparency and operational autonomy, legal ambiguities, a dysfunctional governance structure, technical inadequacy, tariff imbalances and financial bankruptcy. Following are discussed some relevant issues that would help define the current situation in the sector.

Water supply and sanitation service delivery levels in Karachi are very poor with serious economic and social costs to the city and the citizens. Households connected to the KW&SB network in Karachi receive water only for three (3) to four (4) hours per day. Intermittent water supply

has severe public health consequences, as clean water in pipelines becomes contaminated in the absence of sustained water pressure. High levels of leakages/water theft (30%) in the network make contamination more severe.

About 70% of the water supplied to the city returns as sewage. A total quantity of 315 mgd of domestic and toxic industrial wastewater is generated in the city. There are three sewage treatment plants in Karachi. The combined design capacity of these treatment plants is 151 mgd. The untreated sewage is disposed off in sea through nallahs, including the Lyari River. The total length of sewers is 3,500 miles and ranges from 8" to 66" diameter of trunk sewers, sec-



Discharge of untreated sewage on the Clifton beach

History of Institutional Development

1953: Karachi Joint Water Board (KJWB) constituted. One of its major tasks was to expand the water supply from the Indus river source.

1981: Karachi Water Management Board (KWMB) was formed. It was responsible for water supply to the entire metropolitan area of Karachi as well as cost recovery.

1983: Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KW&SB) was formed. It was comprehensively responsible for the water supply and sewerage services within the Karachi Metropolitan Area.

1996: Karachi Water and Sewerage Board Act was passed by the Sindh Assembly. According to the Act, the KW&SB was separated from KMC.

2003: KW&SB operationally merged into City District Government of Karachi (CDGK) under the Sindh Local Government Ordinance 2001. It was termed as Water and Sanitation Department (WSD). Internal organization largely remained unchanged.

Source: KW&SB



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Interested contributors should contact the SHEHRI office for writers guidelines. SHEHRI newsletter readership is from students, professionals, environmentalists, policy makers, NGOs and other organizations.

Views expressed herein do not necessarily express the views of the Editor/Editorial Board.

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EDITORIAL

One for all and all for one!

A Supreme Court Bench comprising Justices Rana Bhagwandas and Mohammad Nawaz Abbasi has set court in the Supreme Court Registry in Karachi to see what the Honorable Supreme Court can do to sort out the ever escalating traffic chaos in Karachi. Rather than coming up with any concrete solutions, the Court proceedings have unfortunately to date witnessed allegations and counter allegations between the various authorities tasked with managing Karachi.

While some of the allegations being hurled at each other by all concerned may not be totally without merit, these court proceedings and the debates ensuing around them have yet again brought to the fore the regrettable and unfortunate fact that Karachi lacks an appropriate and coordinated management control system. While it is clichéd to say that 'Karachi is owned and managed by over 20 federal, provincial, local and private entities having their own set of rules, regulations and management controls' - this is where the crux of the problem lies.

If we take the case of the transport crisis, then it is not something that only has to do with lack of parking space, lack of proper public transport, encroachments, instead the crisis is sourced from and rooted in the way the overall growth and development dynamics of the city is mapping out. Land use and zoning rules and regulations are flouted with impunity, with the result that there can now be termed few areas and

localities in the city that are purely 'residential' or 'purely commercial'. This merging and mixing of land uses gives rise to chaotic and unpredictable traffic patterns that defy the application of standard traffic planning and management practices to resolve the crisis. Traffic is moving in all directions at all times without a discernable or identifiable ebb or flow in the traffic load.

In the absence of a functioning 'Master Plan' or an overriding umbrella management control, ad-hocism has taken firm roots and all concerned are busy fighting the fire rather than doing anything to prevent it. Projects undertaken are not part of a holistic planning process and rather than having a city wide planning focus they are geared to relieving site specific traffic stresses.

This strategy may offer short term gains but can never be a substitute to a set of integrated projects being identified as a result of a city wide transport planning exercise. Long term, holistic and integrated planning cannot take place unless we have a coordinated management control system. If the city is to survive as a viable organic whole the all have to pull together.

If Karachi has to have any hope of being placed in the category of a developed, prosperous and viable mega city of the world than all concerned have to show the will and the action to do the needful. Are we all not on the same boat? □



ondary sewers and laterals.

In the absence of proper network at places sewage has been diverted to storm water drains, Lyari/Malir Rivers, Gujru Nallah, Orangi Nallah and other tributaries. There are a large number of Katchi Abadis where more than 40% of the city's population lives. The population of the city for which the system was originally designed has exceeded the design capacity. Consequently the sewerage network is overloaded and is rendered undersized in a number of areas.

In case of municipal waste water treatment, the three sewage treatment plants are functioning at 20-30% efficiency, mainly because the majority of the sewer pipes, secondary/trunk sewers are not connected to the plants with the result that hydraulic loading is insufficient. Lack of trained staff employed for operating the plants and meeting the requirements of fulfilling the O/M procedures/practices and crisis management is another inhibiting factor. Insufficient financial resources hinder proper maintenance and upgrading of the plants

KW&SB investments in the past have mostly augmented production and transmission, neglecting efficiency improvements, rehabilitation and maintenance. Networks and facilities have therefore deteriorated, inefficiencies and losses have made operations wasteful and financial capacity constraints have prevented investment planning based on an integrated view of capital expenditures, operation and maintenance and least cost principles.

Absence of a systematic policy or regulatory framework makes it difficult to hold KW&SB accountable for its performance. KW&SB is still managed in terms

Sydney Water Plan - The Main Concept Learning from International Best Practices

The Sydney Water Plan has materialized in recognition of the fact that the city is using more water than is sustainable. The Plan has therefore been developed to ensure that the people of the greater Sydney area have enough water to meet their needs over the next 25 years. The main concept behind the Plan is to maximize the availability of water by optimizing on a mix of options rather than relying on a single option. For example, the Plan, while outlining plans and strategies for augmenting water supply, also focuses strongly on identifying measures to reduce demand by bringing down consumption levels and encouraging water conservation practices. So the overall strategy is to determine the timing and sequencing of the options (such as supply, save or substitute water) to deliver the best social, economic and environmental outcomes for the community

Summary of Plan Proposals

The Plan focuses on the following key aspects:

- Minimize the risk of water shortages by diversifying sources of supply
- Ensure secure water supplies
- Protect and restore river health
- Adopt a partnership approach with the community
- Provide good quality, cost effective water supply services
- Foster innovation
- Increase the efficient use of water
- Match the grade of water to its end use
- Optimize the use of existing infrastructure
- Appropriately target future investment
- Make decisions adaptively
- Ensure actions are acceptable to the public, affordable, feasible and sustainable

Analysis of the Plan

The following analysis looks critically into the planning methodologies of the Sydney Water Plan:

Goal Setting

The goal setting for this project is sound and comprehensive as it is backed both by the relevant political quarters and is supported by an in-depth analytical review of the existing situation. The fact that the Plan enjoys wide political support is reflected in the due importance accorded to all the available range of options and in that the government is taking the lead in the implementation of water conservation measures. The Plan also appears to enjoy the support of important stakeholders such as industry as strong measures are advocated for their contribution in the sustainable use and demand management of the water resources. An aggressive public participation component also reflects

Cont. Pg 4



of the KW&SB Act of 1996, but it also functions under the conditions of the Sindh Local Government Ordinance (SLGO) of 2001, which has marked implications for its place within the broader devolution process and its relative relationships with the provincial, city and town level governments in its area of jurisdiction. The KW&SB Act of 1996 provides for a Governing Board that has barely met over the past few years.

KW&SB has limited control over influencing tariff re-adjustment and there is no independent regulation of tariffs. In the absence of an effective tariff structure and a process of tariff setting that considers economically rational operational factors, there has been no incentive for greater efficiency or for customers to pay. KW&SB's relationship with consumers also needs much improvement in order to mobilize public support for action against illegal connections, encroachment of pipelines and other malpractices that undermine operations.

Nearly 30 MGD of water is being provided to industrial sites located at S.I.T.E, Korangi, Landhi, F.B Area, North Karachi and elsewhere in the city. However, none of the industrial estates in Karachi are served with effluent collection and conveyance system. So the effluents are not collected and conveyed to the KW&SB treatment plants and instead are discharged mostly untreated into the sea via the Malir and Lyari Rivers.

Some industries do employ in-house waste water treatment practices but their effluents are not treated in the KW&SB treatment plants. About 70% of the total industry of Pakistan is located in Karachi. Most of the Industry is located in Sindh Industrial Trading Estate (S.I.T.E), Landhi Industrial Trading Estate (L.I.T.E), Korangi

Industrial Area, West Wharf Industrial Area and the Hub Industrial Trading Estate (H.I.T.E).

International Best Practices

The reforms in the public utilities recently carried out in Johannesburg, South Africa, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Manila, Philippines and Uganda offer a range of options that have worked and can serve as reference points for selecting the most viable reform options for Karachi.

Recommendations

Following are discussed some short, medium and long term measures to reform the water and sanitation sector in Karachi:

Short term Measures - Timeframe (6-12 months)

Profiling the Water & Sanitation Sector

To tackle the serious and deep rooted institutional defects, mobilization and support for change is desirable not only within the institutions itself but amongst the widest possible range of stakeholders.

Building mutual understanding in a heavily contested institutional environment is always a difficult and risky process. As a first step, documenting the defacto situation in regards to 'who has access to what services' and identifying 'who plays what roles' can be a very useful step in promoting the understanding of 'why certain stakeholders behave in the way that they do'. For instance, the local communities have done remarkable work in improving the water and sanitation infrastructure in the informal settlements. However the problem of harmonizing these systems within a network must be recognized. At the same time, the significant con-

citizen input and involvement in the goal setting process.

Strategic Framework

The level of technological advancement and sophistication achieved in the Australian society is fully reflected in the proposals put forward in this plan. Highly advanced plans for water conservation, recycling, reuse, and use management that have been identified in the Plan can only be applicable in society that enjoys a high quality of living. This strategic edge provides a holistic and integrated outlook to the plan. Whereas adequate consideration is being given to supply augmentation measures, an extremely ambitious and aggressive plan for curbing demand by encouraging and facilitating water conservation practices for the community, government and industry is being outlined.

While standard practices are being followed, new and innovative strategies such as accessing deep water at the bottom of dams to increase water availability are also being proposed. A significant aspect of the Plan is its long term approach. It is a balancing act between having enough water in the short term and ensuring that water resources are managed sustainably in the long term. In this regard, ensuring the environmental health of the river bodies is given priority consideration.

The forward thought process is suggested in another critical aspect of water management - Conflict Resolution. The Plan accommodates measures for resolving potential conflicts between different categories of consumers by proposing to develop a water sharing plan. The water sharing plan would identify measures for securing the share of water available for urban and rural consumption as well as protect the new environmental flow regimes - **FA**



Illegal extraction of water - A sector in crisis

tribution of KW&SB in developing bulk water and wastewater resources must be recognized, especially in the context of the genuine constraints under which the organization operates. Similarly, the role of local government representatives in representing their constituency and the associated roles assigned and executed by the different tiers of local government needs to be given due priority. The general thrust of such an assessment being to move from the reality, to the incentives that lie behind this reality - that sustain the current status quo. Without a viable governance framework that identifies the appropriate roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders in policy making, service delivery and regulation, the long term effects of technical, financial or internal management changes cannot be secured.

A number of studies are presently being undertaken by a number of organizations such as ADB, JICA, WSP etc. however none of the study is proposing generation of primary data on the sector and are instead relying on secondary data, much of which is outdated and at times also lacks authenticity. It is therefore proposed to conduct a comprehensive exercise of primary data collection for the entire sector, whether formally or informally managed in terms of infrastructure development, financial contributions, legal and policy issues etc. Such data to then feed into the future planning and development initiatives that would need to be undertaken in Karachi.

Medium Term Measures - Timeframe (2-4 years)

Institutional Reforms

Sustainable service delivery improvements are not achievable unless technical and financial inputs are driven by effective and accountable institutions - clearly accountable to legitimate political authority and consumers, and with full responsibility for operational management. The water and sanitation sector in Karachi is faced with a crisis situation. The goal within the broader context should be to reform the water and sanitation sector in terms of ensuring the institutional and financial viability of the sector and enhancing customer orientation and accountability and therefore improve the quality of life of the people.

Recently, the KW&SB management has initiated a series of reforms in areas such as revenue and operational management and improving customer services. Though highly welcome, in order to have lasting and holistic impact, it is felt that these reforms have to be embedded within a sector based reform process that targets broad based institutional reforms and the related issues of governance. A viable reform initiative would have to be based on the following important considerations:

- * Achieving political commitment
- * Building mutual understanding in a heavily contested institutional environment
- * Identification of approaches for maximizing the capacity of all contributing stakeholders
- * Ensuring the sustainability of actions

It is therefore suggested that any efforts aimed at institutional reforms should be encouraged and facilitated. Appropriate fiscal support would have

to be made available for supporting the reform process.

Long Term Measures - Timeframe (5-10 years)

Following the process of institutional reforms and strengthening, the following long term plans/projects are being identified for implementation:

- * Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Plan/ Implementation for Karachi
- * Rehabilitating Karachi's Waterways: Lyari/Malir River Basin Management/Planning and Implementation
- * A Drainage Plan
- * City Wide Sewer System/ Network Rehabilitation

Industrial Sector Initiatives

Some separate recommendations are being made for the industrial sector:

For the industrial sector, the following measures are being identified for implementation:

- * Investment be directed at providing the industrial estates with proper sewerage/drainage infrastructure and an effective management system (proper collaboration b/w the industry/KW&SB-CDGK)
- * Provision of financial incentives for the industrial sector to promote the installation of waste water treatment facilities
- * Investment in the development of indigenous waste water technologies/systems of waste water treatment (e.g. industry-university liaison, capacity building of local consultants/contractors/manufacturers) . □

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SHEHRI ACTIVITIES

Shehri seminar on Corporate Social Responsibility December 02, 2007 (Hotel Marriott, Karachi)

Shehri-CBE in collaboration with Sustainable Initiatives held a 'Multi-stakeholder Orientation Workshop' - The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises: An Instrument for Implementing CSR', at Hotel Marriott, Karachi on Saturday, December 02, 2006, as part of the project, 'Civil Society Capacity Building on Corporate Social Responsibility and OECD Guidelines Implementation Procedures'.

The welcome address was given by Ms. Amber Alibhai, General Secretary Shehri-CBE while the objectives and methodology of the workshop were elaborated upon by Mr. Farhan Anwar, Executive Director, Sustainable Initiatives.

The first presentation 'Intro on the OECD Guidelines and aims/history of OECD Watch and its activities', was made by Peter Pennartz, IRENE International Restructuring Education Network Europe in collaboration with Center for Research on Multinational Enterprises (SOMO), The Netherlands. Mr. Pennartz identified the role and mandate of the OECD Watch and identified the background of the global corporate accountability movement. He said that the importance of the Guidelines covering a broad range of issues such as labor, environment, human rights, corruption, taxation etc. is indicated in the

fact that they represent an internationally accepted frame of reference for CSR, by business, trade unions and to some extent, the NGO's.

The second presentation 'Corporate Social Responsibility, the OECD Guidelines and the Pakistani Context', was jointly presented by Farhan Anwar and Seema Khurram of Sustainable Initiatives. Mr. Anwar presented the first component where an analysis was made of the sections of the Guidelines dealing with the environment to the key environmental legislative instrument that is enforced in Pakistan and that provides a broad framework for environmental regulation and enforcement, namely the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997 and its related rules, regulations and enforcement mechanism. In the second component, Seema Khurram shared with the participants the analytical results of a survey that Sustainable Initiatives had earlier conducted on assessing the potential role citizen groups in Pakistan can play in facilitating corporate compliance.

The third presentation 'Damaging the environment and livelihoods: BP oil exploration activities in Badin', was made by Dr. Akash Ansari of the Badin Rural Development Society. The presentation dealt with the environmental degradation that has taken place in the Badin area of the province

of Sindh due to the oil exploration activities being undertaken by BP Pakistan.

The fourth presentation 'Left Bank Outfall Drain (LBOD) Project - Spelling Environmental and Social Disaster' was made by a noted citizen activist, Naseer Memon. Mr. Memon said that the LBOD project commenced in the end of 1984 with an objective of reclaiming agricultural land in three districts on the left bank of Indus River viz. Nawabshah, Sanghar and Mirpur Khas. Since the project was planned and designed as an engineering project therefore it failed to capture broader canvas of social and environmental dimensions. As the project proceeded, it unfolded various counter-productive outcomes.

The fifth presentation 'The CSR practices of Engro Chemical Pakistan Limited - A Model in Excellence' was delivered by Wajid Hussain Junejo, Public Affairs Manager, Engro Chemical Pakistan Limited. Mr. Junejo said that a key objective of Engro's social strategy is to mainstream systems based on Responsible Business Pillars that ensure the organizational ability to implement the 10 principles of the UN Global Compact through embedded organizational processes.

During the general discussion phase, the discussion focused on four topics related with the issue of CSR:

- a. Government Responsibilities in facilitating CSR practices
- b. Civil Society capacity building in CSR related advocacy and action
- c. Critical sectors of concern in MNE operations in Pakistan
- d. Concerns for social and environmental degradation: Role of multilateral agencies





Shehri 17th Annual General Meeting (Saturday, June 16th, 2007 at Shehri Office)

The 17th Annual General Meeting of Shehri-CBE, held on Saturday, June 16th, 2007 (5:00 pm), at Shehri office. The following managing committee members were present

1. Mr. Roland deSouza
Chairperson
2. Dr. Syed Raza Ali Gardezi
Vice Chairperson
3. Mrs. Amber Alibhai
General Secretary
4. Mr. Khatib Ahmed
Executive Member
5. Mr. Derrick Dean
Executive Member
6. Mr. Hanif A. Sattar
Executive Member

The following General Body members were present.

1. Mr. Nisar Hussain Baloch
Member
2. Ms. Naila Ahmed
Member
3. Mr. Sameer Hamid Dodhy
Member
4. Mrs. Radia Khatib
Member

AGENDA

1. To confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
2. To approve and adopt General Secretary's report of Shehri's activities, for the year 2005.
3. To approve and adopt the audited statement of accounts for the year ended on December 31st, 2005.
4. To appoint and fix remuneration of auditors for the year 2006
5. To announce the names of the new Managing committee
6. Any other business with the permission of the chair.

The minutes of the 16th AGM were read out. Mr. Sameer Hamid Dodhy proposed and Ms. Naila Ahmed sec-



onded, the minutes of the meeting were confirmed. The General Secretary, Mrs. Amber Alibhai gave a summary of Shehri's activities for the year 2006, the details of which are mentioned in the Annual Report 2006. Mr. Hanif A Sattar proposed and Mr. Derrick Dean seconded, hence the Annual Activity report was adopted.

The statement of account was read out. Ms. Naila Ahmed proposed and Mr. Sameer Hamid Dodhy seconded. The audited accounts were adopted. (The accounts for the year ending December 31st 2006 were audited by M/s Haider & Company Chartered Accountants.) It was decided to retain M/s Haider & Company as auditors for the year 2007 and their fees would be Rs.7,000/- an increase of Rs.1,000/-. This was proposed by Mr. Khatib Ahmed and seconded by Mr. Nisar Baloch.

The election results announced by Mr. Khursheed Javed, Election Commissioner. Following members were elected.

1. Mr. Derrick Dean
Chairperson
2. Dr. Syed Raza Ali Gardezi
Vice Chairperson
3. Mrs. Amber Alibhai
General Secretary
4. Mr. Farooq Fazal
Treasurer
5. Mr. Hanif A Sattar
Member

6. Mr. Roland deSouza
Member
7. Mrs. Naila Ahmed
Member

The General Secretary Mrs. Amber Alibhai and the Chairperson Mr. Roland deSouza informed the members about the EIA hearings and about the Help Desk and how they help people. In the year 2006, Shehri filed 15 legal cases and one in Lahore to save Doongi Ground park. Shehri was also assisting residents in Lahore for the Lahore Bachao Tehrik.

Members were informed about the Karachi Elevated Expressway, Sugar Land City project, the NED Police project and other issues that Shehri is involved in.

The new members to the Managing Committee were welcomed Mr. Farooq Fazal, Mrs. Naila Ahmed and Mr. Derrick Dean. The outgoing members of the Managing Committee, Mr. Khatib Ahmed and Mr. Sheikh Rizwan Abdullah were thanked for the work and time they have given and it was hoped that they would continue to do so. Mr. Sameer Hamid Dodhy was asked to help in fundraising and in increasing the membership. He would also help in getting in touch with other similar organizations.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair. □



Shehri Workshop on attitude, tolerance & community policing Thursday, Friday, November 2-3, 2006 (Hotel Regent Plaza, Karachi)

Objectives of the workshop

- Increase participants understanding about community policing and its importance
- Enhance participants interpersonal communication skills (attitudes & behaviors)
- Help participants understand the importance of link between self and attitudes

Mrs. Amber Alibhai, General Secretary of Shehri, Mr. Khatib Ahmed, Member Shehri, Mr. Babar Bashir and Mr. Khairul Bashar of an Islamabad based NGO, Rozan spoke at the workshop, participated by over 30 police officers, and NGO workers. Later, certificates were also given to the participants.

Community policing is a collaborative effort between the police and the com-



munity that identifies problems of crime and disorder and involves all elements of the community in the search for solutions to these problems. It is founded on close, mutually beneficial ties between police and community members.

Effective community policing has a positive impact on reducing neighborhood crime, helping to reduce fear of crime and enhancing the quality of life in the community. It accomplishes

these things by combining the efforts and resources of the police, local government and community members.

Community policing offers a way for law enforcement to help re-energize our communities. Developing strong, self-sufficient communities is an essential step in creating an atmosphere in which serious crime will not flourish. □

Launching of Zimmadar Shehri Campaign - Wednesday, November 8, 2006 (3:00 pm) Karachi Press Club

A citizen's rally was organized by Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment and the Helpline Trust to mobilize the sovereign citizens of Karachi to create new paradigms in their attitude, thinking and responsibility to act as responsible sovereign citizens. For many years people from civil society have come together and established platforms from where issues facing the sovereign citizens which are not being addressed adequately by the elected representatives and public servants are raised.

Unfortunately, despite all the efforts, time and money including threat to

their life these civil society groups who are forging ahead are being stone-walled and frustrated by these elected representatives and public servants. Now the time has come that all the sovereign citizens have to come together and break down these stone-walls if we are to get good governance, accountability and rule of law. For 58 years every objection, every voice, every pain, every hardship of the sovereign citizen has not been resolved nor heard but frustrated and stone-walled by lack of good governance, no transparency, lack of accountability and no rule of law. Yet the sovereign citizen continues to

remain quiet and allow the unilateral decision making of elected representatives and public servants to play havoc with his/her life.

We ask you what has this resulted in!!! We suffer by having no sense of security, we are all mentally besieged as prisoners in our own city, we have no rights, no water, no electricity, traffic congestions, pollution, unplanned expansion of the city, violations of all building and zoning laws, zero law and order, untold misery for commuters due to lack of an alternative transportation system, inadequate health facilities, education system in



tatters, no price control and no housing to name but a few, and sometimes when some courageous citizen cries foul they change the law or he disappears.

All advertisements and media blitz is about recreation and housing for the rich, what is the average citizen to do. The beach has been privatized, there is no recreation facility, parks are encroached, footpaths are encroached, the nallahs are encroached and now face it. Your basic rights are encroached.

See what has happened around you. When the Karachi Circular Railway was systemically and deliberately destroyed by vested interest, we did not standup, the result is before us, each and every road is grid locked. When they sold our drainage nallahs we kept quiet and even occupied and bought. Flats and offices in these illegal constructions built upon them. Little realizing the havoc they would play twenty years later after a few millimeters of rain. We allowed plazas to be built without adequate parking and supportive infrastructure i.e. water, electricity and sewerage. Look at the mess on Shahrah-e-Faisal, Shakra-e-Iran, Shahrah-e-Liaquat and each and every Shahrah in this orphan city. There are no parks, citizens have to go to court to save the open spaces, they



cut down trees, there is no footpath to walk on and most important whether you are rich or poor nearly all of us have been directly or know of someone who has been a victim of violence and traffic accidents in Karachi.

Everyone is dreading the holiest month in our religious calendar because of rising prices and the traffic congestions that will follow.

Why are we citizens spineless. Do we all suffer from the battered child syndrome.

What more do you need to suffer before you will rise and take your lawful position as owners of this city. Remember if you do not demand change there will be no change in the quality of supply. What should you do;

- * Establish ownership of your city and country within yourself. Remember you are the sovereign owner.
- Put your name in the electoral roll, go and vote.
- Keep a check and balance on your elected representatives. Change them by participating in elections.
- Keep a check on your public servants. They for the past 58 years have taken
- over as owners and refuse to accept the fact that they are our paid public servants and are accountable and answerable to all of us. Do not be afraid of them, they only have as much strength and power as you allow them to have. □

Freedom of information: Citizens right to access information

Saturday, 11th November 2006, (9:30am-5:30.m) Hotel Marriott, Karachi

The right to access correct information is the right of every individual, this was the theme behind the training workshop arranged by Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment in collaboration with Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation.

In Pakistan, freedom of information was introduced as an ordinance in 2004, but the participants of the workshop felt that this ordinance should be

turned into an Act of Parliament, to improve the prevalent conditions of valid information in the country.

A trainer, Mr. Zahid Abdullah, consultant from Centre for Peace and Development Initiative, Islamabad, delivered a lecture on the theme of the workshop. He said public has the right to access to information held by the public bodies and various government institutions. Once the individual has

the information, the person gets empowered. This eventually leads to direct or indirect impact on peoples' right. Giving out statistics, he said as many as 68 countries to-date have the right to this Act, which we finally achieved a few years back. He was of the view that rulers like master, as in the British Colonial era, controlled the lives of their people and denied them correct information. But the government must remember that it is not a



stakeholders but a shareholder in peoples' problems.

Mr. Zahid Abdullah cited the fact, that the major principles of 'Freedom of Information' requires maximum disclosure of details, obligation to publish correct rules, open meetings, the process to facilitate complete access and more importantly the protection of whistleblowers.

The prime fault lies in the prevailing poor conditions of 'Human Rights' and 'Corruption' that takes place in our society, when the government fails to become transparent and accountable. It is observed that whenever information is withheld, it is because the politics of vested interest of many parties that are at stake is involved behind the scene.

Public access to information is crucial for good governance and for the



democratic process to make headway in the country. Its importance can be assessed from the fact that it affected the citizens right to participation.

At the end of workshop, he prescribed the means through which one can obtain complete information from any government machinery by forwarding a clean-cut procedure of filing a form and accessing information by paying a

specified amount.

Over 60 participants from various government departments, NGOs, media, civil society groups attended the workshop. □

The Solid Waste Disposal System in Karachi - A Fact Sheet

Karachi generates about 6,113 tons of solid waste every day. About 5,057 tons is lifted and 1,057 tons is not lifted. About 10% of this waste is removed at source by housewives and sold to about 15,000 kabaris who pick up the waste from peoples homes. This solid waste consists of glass, plastic, metal and paper. In addition, another 600 tons of solid waste is collected from kutchra kundis and from the streets and markets by waste pickers. This waste consists of paper, rags, plastic, metal objects, glass and bones. Garbage lifting costs Rs.1.2 billion. More than 1000 recycling units are operative in the informal sector.

Sweepers employed by with the municipal agencies or hired by residents, provide door to door garbage collection service. From the households, the waste is taken to neighborhood collection points (concrete/steel bins) stationed at roadsides, on pathways, in parks, playgrounds. The garbage may also be dumped openly in storm drains, parks/playgrounds, back lanes etc. In such places, garbage is either burnt or is collected by the municipal agencies refuse vans and transported to the landfill sites (non-engineered sites, where garbage is dumped and openly burnt) located in the outskirts of the city, one at Jam Chakro, Surjani Town and the other at Gond Pass, Hub River Road, 30-35 km from the city centre..

In the absence of any officially provided service in the recycle/reuse of solid waste, the informal sector has filled this gap to a great extent. The informal sector comprises of an organized chain of actors, starting from the rag pickers on the streets to the recycling factory owners. It is a flourishing business, which at a conservative estimate, accounts for 15%-20% of the total generated waste of the city. This sector provides employment to more than 55,000 families and had an annual turnover of Rs.1.2 billion. More than 1000 recycling units are operative in the informal sector.

About 2.7 tons of waste is generated by 200 hospitals having total bed strength of 9000. It contains 540 kg hazardous waste and 2,160 kg of non-hazardous waste. For disposing of hospital waste, some private and government run hospitals have installed imported/locally developed waste incinerators. The City District Government has also installed two waste incinerators in the city. They cater only to the waste of about 140 health care units and are presently running at very low efficiency.

In the areas not covered by the City Government such as the cantonment areas, Clifton, Malir, Faisal and Korangi cantonments have 34 vehicles that collect an estimated 311 tons of garbage each day and incur a daily cost of Rs.197, 000 on sweeping and transportation. □



SHEHRI ADVOCACY

In this section, we highlight some of our ongoing advocacy work and seek active citizen participation for ensuring protection of public interest.

Industrial / Domestic waste discharges in defence installations in Karachi

Shehri's observations and comments after hearing the 2-day Senate Sub-committee hearings are as follows:

1. The land comprising Karachi has approximately 27 owners all of whom have their own leases and building rules. These rules are violated with impunity in connivance with local officials and in collusion with KWSB, CDGK, KESC and other related departments.
2. There is also a multiplicity of municipal agencies responsible for the handling, treating, and disposal of liquid and solid wastes in their jurisdictions. Some of these municipal agencies have sub-contracted the jobs to private parties or CDGK, but cannot ensure that an adequate job is done
3. In violation of town-planning schemes and notified land-use, much land is being unlawfully used for industrial, cottage industry, and marketing purposes. The inner city has been partially converted into small factories and industrial units and ware-housing for chemicals, food, textile, machinery, etc. Among these are:
 - * Many buildings in Saddar and P.E.C.H.S. have been converted into jewelry and gold workshops. They pump toxic chemicals and fumes into the air and into sewers, and pose a fire/explosion hazard. They also are used for warehousing and re-packaging of chemicals, food, clothing.
 - * Textile and stitching factories are housed all over P.E.C.H.S., Nazimabad, Saddar, North Karachi, Landhi, Malir, to name just a few areas.
 - * Golimar and Pak Colony in SITE Town are home to the largest marble and stone processing factories. They pollute the air, the water, the nallahs and also dump waste into Gutter Bagicha.
 - * Meat, poultry and fish stalls open on every corner, in blatant violation of municipal regulations, polluting the area with offal and waste, attracting carrion birds.
4. Notified katchi abadis are 539, spread over approximately 12,445 acres all over Karachi. The un-notified katchi abadis are 1100, spread over 20,000 acres approximately. These katchi abadis are housing furniture making, spray painting, ice factories, plastic making, toys, rubber slippers, shoes, die-casting units, bleaching, dyeing stitching, small industries, carpet making, hand looms, paper making, chip boards, slaughter houses etc. These units use all kinds of chemicals which are pumped directly into the nallas and the KW&SB sewers which are not equipped to handle this kind of effluent
5. Approximately 300mgd of untreated and toxic sewerage finds its way into the ocean. Another 100mgd pollutes the ground water
6. Over 50% of solid waste is not collected by the CDGK and the other municipal agencies. Informal recycling (by rag-pickers) manages to rescue some of reusable materials. There is no proper landfill site in the city; Karachi just has dumping grounds at some outskirts.
7. Applicable laws governing generation and handling of liquid and solid wastes include:
 - * Environmental Protection Act 1997 r/w numerous subordinate legislation/rules, including
 - * National Environment Quality Standards (NEQS), 2001
 - * Review of EIA & IEE Regulations, 2000
 - * Sindh Local Government Ordinance 2001 r/w numerous subordinate legislation/rules
 - * Cantonment Act 1924
 - * Sindh Fisheries Ordinance, 1980
 - * Pakistan Penal Code, 1860
 - * WP Fisheries Ordinance, 1961 S
 - * Ports Act, 1908
 - * Pakistan Territorial Waters & Maritime Zones Act 1976
 - * KPT Act 1860/1994
 - * Factories Act, 1934

There is no dearth of laws prohibiting the pollution we see around us; there



is only a dearth of will to implement the laws!

8. As per NEQS 2001, all installations are required to emit liquid effluents into the public sewers only in conformance with NEQS standards.

Consequently, industrial and other locations generating toxic/aggressive effluents have to provide special in-house treatment before dumping into the public sewer. This practice is virtually non-existent (except for some multi-nationals). The three KWSB treatment plants of TP-1, TP-2 and TP-3 (present capacity 95mgd) are equipped to handle residential/domestic municipal (or previously treated industrial) waste only.

9. Additionally, NEQS 2001 prohibits discharge of any kind of effluent (even if it is in accordance with NEQS standards for the sea) into the sea within 10 miles of mangroves or important estuaries (like Chinna Creek or Korangi Creek, etc). Consequently, the discharge of all liquid effluent from treatment plants into the sea within 10 miles of Karachi is unlawful! The simple implementation of this rule would save all defence installations in Karachi harbour!

Shehri's recommendations are as follows;

- * All land owners and municipal agencies of the city must adhere and strictly follow their lease conditions and zoning/ landuse rules.
- * Industrial parks must be established and all illegal small and large industries be shifted to these parks. These industrial parks must have their collective treatment plants, and each

industry must be made to comply with NEQS 2001.

* The existing industries established in SITE, KITE, Landhi Industrial area, Federal 'B' Area Industrial Area, and North Karachi Industrial Area must have collective treatment plants, and monitor the compliance of their individual industries with NEQS 2001.

* A public education campaign (safai nisf iman hai) must be mounted for at least ten years to reduce the buildup of public pollution and garbage all over the city.

This is specially so with regards to food and related items.

* Unlicensed and unhygienic food outlets and meat/poultry/fish stalls must be shut down

* The siting of locations (industrial areas markets, etc) that generate excessive solid waste must be made keeping in view the flight path of defence and other aircraft.

* The establishment of proper landfill sites, and the setting up of an effective garbage collection system (probably in the private sector) is required immediately.

Since 'garbage is gold', this should not be impossible.

With these observations and recommendations, we enclose newspaper articles, correspondence, public notices and various rules that are being flouted. □

Unlawful Occupation of Church Property

We refer to the news-item in Dawn dated June 04, 2007, stat-

ing that a builder has illegally purchased and is demolishing a heritage/amenity church property.

We would like draw the attention of the relevant officials to the following:

1. Church plots are amenity plots and cannot be converted to commercial or residential use under law
2. Federal Gazette Notification (Ordinance No.F.2(1)/2002) dated 22 January 2002, issued by the Ministry of Law, Justice, Human Rights and Parliamentary Affairs, which has been promulgated "to protect the properties of minority communities meant for their communal use" clearly prohibits the sale or transfer of communal properties (like churches) without NOC from the Federal Government.

Relevant officials are kindly requested to investigate the matter and ensure that the interests of the minorities are not usurped. □

Korangi Creek Industrial Park (KCIP) Project

Under section 12(2) of the PEPA (Review of IBB &, E1A) Regulations 2000, the DG shall constitute a "Committee of Experts" to review the EIA. Please let us know the names/addresses of the members of this "Committee of Experts".

Under section 12(3), a Committee may be constituted to inspect the site of the project and submit a report.

Under section 12(4), a quantitative & qualitative assessment of all comments, documents, data and views (collated u/s 10(5)) is to be prepared by EPA. The following points must be noted: