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CITIZENS FOR
A BETTER
ENVIRONMENT

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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MARCH 1993

SHOULD CANTONMENTS GO?

Cantonment areas were originally set up by the Colonial Government on the outskirts of the cities of the subcontinent to centralise their strategic defence and administrative installations and personnel. Each city in addition also had a cantonment in the downtown area where civic buildings and the houses of the elite (primarily the British officers of the superior services) were located. This was done to preserve a certain standard of living and in times of crisis (say insurgencies by the 'natives') to preserve and protect the honour and dignity of the ruling classes and their families.

Karachi was no exception to this principle of city planning, and accordingly six cantonments within and on the outskirts of the city area namely Manora, Drigh, Maifir, Clifton, Korangi Creek and Karachi Cant, were located.

Today, with the massive growth in population since 1947 and the unplanned spread of the city, Clifton and Karachi Cantonments are now totally within and themselves composed of dense residential areas. The others have residential density of varying degrees. By no definition do any of these fall within the hinterland anymore and are very much within urban areas.

This is an undesirable and potentially very dangerous state of affairs on several counts:

- Karachi is at present governed by several agencies such as KDA, KMC, KPT, SITE, LITE, various housing societies and authorities, the six cantonments mentioned above etc. There is already a tremendous overlap in function and responsibilities and many grey areas which leave the ordinary citizen in a perpetual state of bewilderment as to who or where

to turn when faced with an urban problem. In such a situation the continued presence of the cantonments with their own sets of rules and regulations and indeed even local government (cantonments are on the federal legislative list and therefore do not fall within the purview of the provincial government but under the Ministry of Defence, Islamabad), further adds to Karachi's confusion.

On the urban planning count

suddenly into high rise, high density commercial and residential developments (Mafi Square at Zamzama, for example). All this is done by the mere stroke of the proverbial bureaucratic pen. By thus increasing the value of the land at the time of sale, or just after, many millions are made by a few people. Thus the Cantonment boards abet the pursuit of private profit at the expense of public good.

Although we, the general public, do not have details of

Will the autocratic cantonment boards go?

By Anwar Saifullah
CANTONMENT boards are a long time ago. They were set up by the British colonial government to centralise their strategic defence and administrative installations and personnel. Each city in addition also had a cantonment in the downtown area where civic buildings and the houses of the elite (primarily the British officers of the superior services) were located. This was done to preserve a certain standard of living and in times of crisis (say insurgencies by the 'natives') to preserve and protect the honour and dignity of the ruling classes and their families.

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the cantonments have played a dismal and even nefarious role. From time to time precious parcels of land are auctioned off or sold to generate money, supposedly for development purposes. The selection of which parcel of land is to be auctioned for what purpose is done without the least consideration to environmental impact and in open violation of the principles of urban planning. Since the Cantonment boards also controls land use and zoning within their areas, many low rise, low density areas have been converted

strategic defense installations or ammunition stores within the cantonments, these must exist. Are we then to wait for an Ohri Camp like disaster to see how our super efficient line agencies perform at crisis management or should we learn from experience and act now?

We are concerned about this state of affairs.

A recent item appearing in the daily 'THE NEWS' (Feb. 11th

A TERRIBLE ACT OF OMISSION

The Environmental Protection Council (EPC) was formed in February 1984 due to an Ordinance called the Environmental Protection Ordinance (EPO) itself promulgated on 31st December 1983. The EPC has been empowered to deal with many environmental issues in the country. These include but are not limited to the determination of standards for industrial effluence and motor vehicle emissions as well as to the delegation of executive powers of implementation to the

provincial EPAs (Environmental Protection Agencies). However, not a single meeting of the EPC, of which Mr. Nawaz Sharif is the Chairman, has taken place since its inception 9 years ago. SHEHRI-CBE requests the Prime Minister to hold this meeting as soon as possible so that the EPO can be implemented.

Appropriate measures must be taken to prevent further degradation of the environment so that a beginning can be made on the path of sustainable development.

'93) has prompted much speculation. Apparently at the behest of the Governor Sindh, the Quarter Master General (QMG) Pakistan Army, Lieutenant Arif Bhangash, asked the Director General Cantonment Boards Mr. Kishwar Khan to solicit comments from the various Cantonment Boards as to how they feel about abolishing the Boards. To us this is a case of asking the rulers if they wish to abdicate and give up all their perks and privileges (including privy purses) and turn into ordinary God-fearing citizens, having all the joys and advantages implied therein.

One wonders if the QMG and DGCB are merely doing what our bureaucracy does with issues it does not wish to resolve: Start a file. But above the QMG and the DGCB is our Pakistan Defence Minister Syed Obaidullah Shah, who having previously served the province of Sindh in many capacities could perhaps look into the matter?

Or perhaps some caring member of the National Assembly could propose the dissolution of the cantonments as a private members bill. Could the Minister for Environment, Mr. Anwar Saifullah Khan take up the cause?

The cantonments and others like the KPT and the Railways are indeed holding large chunks of undeveloped and potentially very valuable urban land, which could be put at the disposal of the city for providing public amenities and thereby improving the quality of urban life. But it is professional urban planners who must be called in to propose what is to be done and it is for the citizens to select from amongst the proposals.

For certain we neither need the Military Engineering Services (MES) in the middle of the city nor do we need shopping plazas and high rise living in its stead.

Is it too much to ask that all undeveloped Cantonment land be turned into parks, auditoriums and libraries? Without lungs the city cannot be expected to live for very long. ■

COMMERCIALISATION OF P.E.C.H.S.



In the original Masterplan of PECHS commercial and residential areas were clearly earmarked and the only road that was commercial to a certain extent was Tariq Road. But now

residential areas are also fast being taken over mostly by Car show rooms as the picture above shows. This show room is on Sir Syed Road, supposedly a purely residential area. ■

LANDFILL IN LAKE



In spite of citizens' protests and an acute shortage of open spaces in the city, a lake at the junction of Dr. Mahmood Hussain Road and Tariq Road in P.E.C.H.S. is being filled up as the plot has been allotted to a property speculator, SHEHRI in an earlier issue of its newsletter (July 1991) pointed out

that this lake was prime property for unscrupulous developers and a 'Letter to the Editor' printed in 'Dawn' (Monday May 18, 1992) written by a concerned citizen also drew attention to this fact and appealed to the Chief Minister of Sindh to save the lake. ■



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ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH- CHEMICALS, LIFESTYLES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

During the past 50 years, there has been a tremendous increase in the production of organic chemicals to satisfy our demand for consumer goods, as well as an increased demand for valuable heavy metals, for both personal and industrial use. As we enjoy the benefits of consumer goods, we must also learn to deal with the challenges that go along with them. The chemical industry has produced a wide variety of products that have much improved our standard of living and generally increased human life expectancy. However, associated with these benefits are the risks of accidents, contamination, pollution, spills and more hazardous wastes all of which could endanger human health and leave harmful residues in our environment which can or may affect fish and wild life and impair the fragile balance of the environment that we live in.

Pollutants reach areas far from factories by means of wind, water (including ground water) and by entering the food chain. Organisms tend to store some chemicals in their bodies; therefore, even a low concentration of a pollutant may be increased to a high level by being stored in the body of an organism over a period of time. If such an organism (plant or animal) is consumed by human beings, the toxic effects of the pollutants stored in its body can cause severe damage to health.

The government has been encouraging the import of used machinery for setting up industries in the country which facilitated the setting up of tanneries and other industries discharging heavy loads of pollutants. In the early days, heavy polluting industries were set up away from the cities. With the rapid growth of population, cities have expanded and now many heavy industries are surrounded by large human settlements.

Three quarters of the 49 million people whose deaths are registered each year, are killed by illnesses related to a poor environment, and an unhealthy lifestyle according to a WHO (World Health Organisation) Director General Report in March 1992.

A WORKING DEFINITION OF "HAZARDOUS WASTE".
RCR (Resource Conservation & Recovery) ACT 1976, USA.

It is defined as a waste, or combination of wastes, which because of its quantity, concentration, physical or



Three quarters of the 49 million people whose deaths are registered each year, are killed by illnesses related to a poor environment, and an unhealthy lifestyle according to a WHO (World Health Organisation) Director General Report in March 1992.

chemical, or infectious characteristics may: (1) cause, or significantly contribute to, an increase in morbidity or mortality or an increase in serious irreversible or incapacitating reversible illness or (2) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment - when improperly treated, stored, transported or disposed of or otherwise managed.

Hazardous wastes have four characteristics: (1) Ignitability (2) Corrosivity (3) Reactivity (4) Toxicity. Any or a combination is enough to label any waste "hazardous".

Note: By-products of the treatment of any hazardous waste are also to be considered hazardous, unless they are specifically excluded.

SOME CONCLUDING THOUGHTS:

Let the laws of nature rule, not the laws of greed. Let us keep our planet free from unwanted pollutants. As scientists and physicians we can measure how clean is clean, how green is green. After all, it has been said that "a healthy body has a healthy mind." How can we have healthy bodies if our environment is not as clean as it used to be?

It is time we all asked:

1. How clean is the air we breathe?
2. How pure is the water we drink?
3. How wholesome is the food we eat?
4. What are the pollutants and environmental hazards where we live and work?
5. How much radiation are our bodies getting?
6. What other hazards will be introduced in our world in the future and for what reasons?

Remember! The flip side of industrialisation, urbanisation and modernisation is pollution. Today, we cannot afford to pollute anymore. It is our responsibility to preserve our planet from all hazardous wastes that are endangering our lives.

EXAMPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS AFFECTING HEALTH

ETIOLOGY	SITE OF MALIGNANCY/ DISEASES CAUSED
Arsenic	Lung, skin, liver- Central Nervous System, Muscular Weakness, Loss of Appetite & Weight, Gastro-intestinal disorders, Skin Cancer, Corns, Death
Asbestos	Mesothelium, lung- Lung Disease, Lung Cancer, Nervous Disorders, Death
Cadmium	Gastro-intestinal Disorders, Kidney Stones, Prostate Cancer
Chlorine	Intestinal Disorders, Eye Diseases
Chromium	Lung- Liver Necrosis, Nephritis, Gastro-intestinal Disorders, Digestive Tract Cancer
Fluoride	Nephritis, Liver and Heart Tissue Damage, Teeth Mottling, Fluorosis
Lead	General Metabolic Poisoning, Anemia, Tiredness, Lassitude, Irritability, Behavioral Changes
Mercury	Neurological and Renal Disturbances, Gonadotoxic and Mutagenic effects, Disturbance of Cholesterol Metabolism
Nitrate	Hypertension, Methemoglobinemia, Cancer

* Note: There are 5 million known chemicals, 60,000 of which are used commercially. It is a few hundred chemicals that are very hazardous and can cause significant harm.

SELECTED POLLUTANTS ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRIAL SUBSECTOR	POTENTIAL POLLUTANTS*
Chemicals	Sulphuric and nitric acids, ammonia, fluorocarbons
Pesticides	Organohalogen, organophosphates, other toxic organics, arsenic
Textiles	Hydrochloric sulphuric acids, high BOD (organic content), dye, various organic chemicals and detergents
Pharmaceuticals	Ammonia, acids, zinc
Leather tanning	Heavy metals (chromium, cadmium etc.), various organic chemicals, acids, high BOD
Cement	Alkalines, limestone dust
Electrical/Electronics	Fluorocarbons, heavy metals (including cadmium, nickel, selenium)

* quantities and characteristics dependent on type of manufacturing process and whether waste treatment exists.
(Source: NCS Sector Paper on Industries)

Member of
IUCN
The World Conservation Union



WATER POLLUTION

Water and clean air are the most basic human rights. As our world's water and air become increasingly scarce and polluted, we must take steps to ensure that the Third World we inhabit has sufficient supplies of clean water.



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1992-93 Annual Report

'INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION - CAUSES AND REMEDIES'

For the economic development of a country, industrialisation plays a vital role; however, industrialisation in many countries has brought about environmental degradation and deterioration of great magnitude. The environment is first to be adversely affected by industrialisation and in this case Pakistan is no exception. The present scenario of rapid industrialisation is posing a threat of unprecedented magnitude to the environment. "If environmental degradation in Pakistan could be measured on the Richter Scale, it would be close to 7.5."

To highlight this issue, SHEHRI-CBE organised a seminar on 'Industrial Pollution-Causes and Remedies' on December 26, 1992 at a local hotel in Karachi. On the same day, the seminar was preceded by a field trip in which journalists and SHEHRI members took part. The field trip took a route covering, among others, the Malir river outfall, the tanneries area, S.I.T.E. and Nazimabad industrial areas.

The Malir river receives industrial and municipal effluents from the South and East of Karachi and from the Korangi and Landhi industrial areas, which are discharged into the sea via Gizri Creek. In the SITE area, industries have not adopted any measures for the control and prevention of



At the seminar, seated from left to right are: Nasir Hussain, Dr. Mirza Arshad Ali Beg, Justice Saleem Akhtar, Dr. Parvaiz Naim and Dr. Altaf Khan. Addressing the audience is Dr. Parvez Hassan.

industrial activities are not having an adverse effect on the environment.

The tanneries head the list of major industrial polluters. During a stop at the tanneries areas, the field trip participants had a clear view of industrial waste in the form of hides, fur etc. mixed with high concentrations of heavy metals (cadmium etc.) out in the open. Our expert and tour guide, Dr. Mirza Arshad Ali Beg, pointed out that this tannery waste is then processed and supplied to poultry farms as feed. We also noted that water (or rather a combination of sludge, tannery wastes etc.) was being pumped out directly from the sewage lines of the tanneries and supplied to vegetable fields in and around these factories. This means that this waste, contaminated with heavy metals

consumed from poultry to vegetables to the water we drink, contains pollutants in some form or another.

The field trip was followed by a seminar.

The following addressed the Seminar:

1) Dr. Mirza Arshad Ali Beg, former Director PCSIR 2) Dr. Parvez Hassan, Chairman IUCN Commission on Environmental Law 3) Dr. Parvaiz Naim, Dy. Coordinator Coastal Ecosystem Unit, IUCN 4) Dr. Altaf Khan, Dept. of Microbiology, Karachi University. The Chief Guest was Justice Mr. Saleem Akhtar of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

In his keynote address, Dr. Beg, with the help of slides, explained the present scenario with regard to industrial pollution in some of the major industrial areas of Sindh and the Punjab. Dr. Parvez Hassan spoke on environmental standards and the legal framework for environmental management in Pakistan. He explained the functions of the Environmental Protection Council and Environmental Protection Ordinance and made several recommendations that he hoped would be the first step towards environmental protection. Dr. Altaf Khan outlined remedies to the problem and suggested various measures that could be adopted by industries to prevent pollution. In



Vegetables being washed in sewage water before being sold for consumption.

industrial pollution- contrary to the claims of many of them who and chemicals is entering our food chain so that everything we

JHEEL PARK PROJECT IN PROGRESS



Extensive renovation work is taking place for the upliftment of Jheel Park.

One of SHEHRI-CBE's major projects is the upliftment and renovation of Jheel Park in P.E.C.H.S. in collaboration with ZMC East, SHEHRI, along with the 'Residents Association' of the area, formulated a plan for the renovation of the park which had fallen into disuse through neglect and had become a haven for drug addicts. The Administrator of ZMC East was approached to take up this issue after which extensive repair and renovation work was started at the park.

Hoardings that were hiding the park from view were removed,

garbage was cleared and signs forbidding the dumping of garbage were put up at several places. Both lakes in the park were drained of stagnant water and sewage and reeds were removed. Soling of the sides of the lakes is being done to prevent seepage of water and a retaining wall is being constructed to act as a safety measure. A site for a Ladies' Park has been chalked out and SHEHRI and WWF will also be setting up an 'eco-pond' at the smaller lake. Mr. Malik, Director of Parks and Recreation, is personally supervising the construction work and the setting up of nurseries in the park.

In his address regarding environment and health, Dr. Parvaiz Naim explained the effects of industrial pollution on the individual and on ecological systems. Justice Mr. Saleem Akhtar ended the proceedings on an optimistic note; he assured all present that the Supreme Court was determined to prevent industrial pollution and that public interest litigation would be the new weapon in the fight against polluters.

Dr. Parvez Hassan's recommendations included:

1) holding of the first meeting of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Council without any further delay.

3) Pakistan should require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for all projects above a certain monetary threshold (such as say Rs.3 or 5 crores) approved and financed by the developmental financial institutions.

4) certain critically degraded areas such as SITE and Landhi in Karachi should be declared out of bounds for future industries for at least a few years because the assimilative capacity of these areas has already been over-burdened.

5) highly polluting industries such as tanneries and petrochemicals should be subjected to EIS requirements irrespective of their location.

SEMINAR ON ARCHAEOLOGY

From February 9-14 1993, 'Archaeology Quarterly' in collaboration with ZMC Central, Shah Abdul Latif University, Dept. of Archaeology and Museums, SHEHRI-CBE and others, organised a Six day Seminar cum Certificate Course on 'Preservation of Cultural Heritage'. Participants were treated to many enlightening and inspiring talks by eminent scholars and experts throughout the seminar. SHEHRI was represented by Mr. Ahsan Haleem-Fellow Sindh Historical Society and Mian Zafar Iqbal, a student member.

It was pointed out that Karachi was full of many monuments that gave clear pointers to the past while the rest of Sindh was rich in relics

of earlier eras. Recommendations made by speakers were that the work of heritage preservation should be taken up at the grassroots level and that a more concerted effort was needed to preserve the rich heritage of Pakistan. Participants visited the National Museum and were also taken to Madinatul Hikmat, the centre of learning being set up by the Hamdard Foundation where they were shown the excellent library set up for the benefit of research scholars. Dr. Nabi Baksh Baloch, an eminent speaker, offered some advice to all present: "Whenever you come across a monument, no matter how insignificant, you must identify it, tell others about it, record it. That is the best way to try and preserve your heritage."

FOR ALL SHEHRI MEMBERS

Elections for the term 1993-94 will take place on the day of the Annual General Body Meeting, i.e. on Saturday, 24 April, 1993. Please note that all membership dues must be cleared before that date in order to be eligible to vote and/or to stand for election to the Managing Committee. Further details will be provided later. Please Contact the SHEHRI office for any information that you may require.

SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN AT SHEHRI-CBE OFFICE

On February 6, 1993, an Open Day and signature campaign was held at the SHEHRI office to protest against the fact that the Environmental Protection Council of which Mr. Nawaz Sharif is the Chairman, has

not met even once in the nine years since its establishment in 1984. To carry out lobbying and to act as a pressure group, members and supporters of SHEHRI-CBE came to the office and signed their names on letters addressed to the Prime

Minister and to Mr. Anwar Sarfullah Khan, Federal Minister for Environment and Urban Affairs. Several members also collected signatures which were later passed on to the SHEHRI office.

JOIN SHEHRI TO CREATE A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

If You wish to join Shehri please drop this card at:

SHEHRI- Citizens for a Better Environment
206-G, Block 2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi-75400, Pakistan
Tel: 442578, 441769 Fax: 438226

Name: _____ Tel: (Res) _____

Address: _____

Occupation: _____ Tel: (Off) _____

NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Sandilil Sankaran | 11. Mr. Ghulam Ali |
| 2. Mr. Javed Ghauri | 12. Mr. Saadul M. Mulla |
| 3. Mr. Samina Dikhan | 13. Chirp & Co. (Pvt) Ltd |
| 4. Dr. Asad Iqbal Khan | 14. Mr. Muhammad Lunge |
| 5. Dr. Kaleem Ahmed Khan | 15. Mr. Muhammad Anwar |
| 6. Dr. Zameer Ahmad Khan | 16. Mr. Muhammad Ali |
| 7. Mr. Fehem L. Sani Abbasi | 17. Mr. S. S. Siddiqui |
| 8. Mr. Tarek Akbar | 18. Mr. Javed Khan |
| 9. Syed Shaukat Ullah Hussain | 19. Syed Nadeem Ali |
| 10. Mr. Moin Farooq | 20. Mr. M. S. Vohra |

This brings our total number of individual members to 136

COASTAL PROTECTION: THE CHALLENGE BEFORE US

Karachi, a city of millions, can boast of many things. It is the largest city of the country, is the only port and has the largest international airport of the country. It is the commercial and economic heart of the country and its shops and streets buzz with economic and social activities all day round. However, despite all these advantages it is sad to observe that Karachi has failed to provide for its dwellers the necessary recreational infrastructure which could cater to the demands of the recreation-starved people of this city. Far from creating new recreational spots, we have failed to even properly develop and maintain the sites and spots that nature has very graciously provided us with.

Chief among such sites are our coastal areas. Karachi is blessed with a long coastline and beautiful beaches but we have failed completely to capitalize on the opportunity of properly developing, maintaining and protecting them. Our beaches are bereft of even the very basic infrastructural requirements and are heavily polluted. Developing the proper infrastructure is the responsibility of the various government and private agencies. However, even ordinary citizens can contribute in the effort to save and protect our beaches and other coastal spots. In this article I have discussed the issue of marine pollution, its various causes and possible remedies so that the residents of our city can become aware of the need to conserve and protect this wonderful natural resource of ours.

CAUSES OF COASTAL POLLUTION:

Coastal areas have always attracted people who have gathered and settled near them in large



Karachi's coastal areas viz., Hawks Bay, Sanatpur, Clifton Beach, Karungi and Giza Creeks are among the most seriously threatened wetlands in Asia (Global Biodiversity - World Conservation Monitoring Cell) Above is the Lyari River which empties into the Malir channel and Hawks Bay area.

numbers in order to avail themselves of the advantages of water transportation and aesthetics. The resulting human activities produce wastes and contaminants in large quantities which eventually reach the coastal areas and beyond. Every year billions of metric tons of sewage, litter, industrial waste and oily runoff from urban streets and dwellings pour into the oceans of the world.

The major causes of marine pollution are:

1. **SEWAGE:** Sewage which may be either industrial or municipal is a major source of marine pollution. Most sewage is not treated. Only a small portion of the world's sewage receives any kind of treatment before being disposed off into the sewers and open seas. In Third World countries like Pakistan this problem is very severe. These effluents contain oxygen demanding wastes and pathogenic organisms such as enteric bacteria, viruses, protozoans and helminth worms.

2. **LITTER:** Litter of all kinds which finds its way into the coastal areas due to various human activities is also a major source of marine pollution. It harms aquatic life and also impairs the aesthetic

nature of the beaches. This litter mostly consists of synthetic artificial compounds such as plastic which is relatively non-biodegradable i.e. it does not disintegrate quickly like natural materials. Major sources of plastic debris are lawn manufactured items such as containers, bags and other disposable items. The fishing industry also contributes to the plastic debris and nets, buoys and other equipment are now manufactured mostly from synthetic materials.

3. **RUNOFF:** A third source of pollution is runoff from land. Runoff is a non-point source of pollution which means that its exact spot of origin cannot be pinpointed. Runoff is a major source of suspended solids which are extremely harmful because they block sunlight to aquatic plants and carry phosphorus, fecal coliform bacteria and other pollutants. Runoff from agricultural areas contains fertilizers which increase the nutrient load, and pesticides which are highly toxic to marine and aquatic organisms in high concentrations.

EFFECTS OF COASTAL POLLUTION:

The effects of all the various types of pollution discussed above

which finds its way to the seas and oceans is mostly felt in the coastal areas. The various effects of coastal pollution are:

* The pathogenic organisms present in sewers contaminate aquatic life which in turn affects us. These pathogens transfer to people usually through shellfish, although consumption of other seafood and exposure to contaminated sea water is also indicated.

* The plastic debris present in litter dumped in the coastal areas can cause the death of marine animals if they get entangled in fishing nets and plastic bands etc. If the marine animals eat large plastic particles they can also die. Litter also degrades the aesthetic value and quality of coastal areas.

* Coastal pollution also contributes towards the destruction of wetlands, mangroves and coral reefs which form the nursery areas and feeding grounds of aquatic life.

* The over-enrichment of waters with nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus which are present in domestic sewage and fertilizers causes algal bloom and various other aquatic plants. When these plants decompose and die, the decomposing bacteria depletes the water of oxygen, thus killing all the aquatic life. This process is called eutrophication and this extremely dangerous phenomenon is also brought about by the untreated and uncontrolled release of domestic sewage and agricultural runoff.

Discussed above were a few causes and effects of coastal pollution which are playing havoc with our coastal waters. It is a global problem, not restricted to any one country. However, it is more alarming in third world

countries and other developing countries where growth is taking place in an uncontrolled and haphazard manner and a system of checks and balances is no maintained. Pakistan is lucky to have a long coastline but to protect our coastal areas action should be taken at the national level which may include:

* Pinpointing the various inland activities which contribute to coastal pollution and then working with the concerned parties towards solving these problems.

* Strict laws should be formed regarding effluent quality, standards of municipal sewage and other industrial waste discharged into the open waters, and the laws should be properly implemented.

* Seafood sold for public consumption should be monitored regularly.

* Public awareness about the issue of coastal pollution should be enhanced. Most importantly, people should be educated about their role in maintaining a clean coastal environment. In Pakistan, ignorance is perhaps the single largest factor that is contributing to the destruction of our environment.

It is hoped that the government will take the required action to save our beaches and coastal areas from further deterioration. This cannot be brought about by allotting more and more land for beach development in the form of high rise apartment blocks and shopping malls which will place an even greater burden on the coastal environment. The only solution is to frame and implement strict laws and standards which MUST be complied with before it is too late.

(By Farhan Adwar who is a civil engineer and an active member of SHEHRI-CBE.)

KILLING THE PLAYING FIELDS

Citizens of Karachi are painfully aware of the land grabbing that goes on by converting residential and amenity plots into commercial areas. Common victims of this rampant conversion are the public parks. These are regularly converted into marriage gardens. But the sad fact is that this conversion is being carried out by the municipal authorities, who are supposed to be the custodians of this city.

A recent victim of this conversion racket is Shaheen Park, situated on M.A. Jinnah Road, just before the Jai Road roundabout.

This area has seen a population explosion of sorts. First came the showrooms, scores of them, clogging this busy artery with cars double- and triple-parked. Then came apartment buildings, built by breaking down old houses that were valuable for their historic architecture.

Shaheen Park was soon surrounded by apartment buildings, and for this reason it became even more important as an open area. Children and young people used it regularly as a playground. Amateur cricket matches were held. Neighbours



Shaheen Park (can no longer be used for recreational purposes)

used the park for walking and relaxing in.

All this changed when Shaheen Park began being used for marriage parties. Overnight, shamanias and tents were erected and a reception office and kitchen were constructed, completely taking over the open space. Shaheen Park was converted to Shaheen Lawn.

All of a sudden, the complexion of the area was changed. The open area was taken over by permanent structures serving as wedding venues. Cars are now parked outside the road, creating a bottleneck. People cross M.A. Jinnah Road in droves, creating a traffic hazard and endangering

lives. The wedding garden generates noise and pollution.

Children no longer have any place to play in. Shaheen Park was the only open space in the area. Children have to play cricket in the streets, at the risk of their lives from motor vehicles. Team cricket matches, which were a valuable diversion for young people, can no longer be held.

But Shaheen Park is not alone. It is one of the latest victims of the greed for income from marriage parties. The most glaring example of a public open area being converted to wedding lawns is the K.M.C. (Karachi Municipal Corporation) Sports Complex,

situated on Kashmir Road. Whole fields have been converted for this purpose. Permanent structures have been erected. The custodians of these parks no longer bother to take down the shamanias that are put up for the marriages.

Another park that almost got eaten up in this marriage frenzy is the Kutchi Memon Housing Society Park, situated near Rangoonwala Hall off Stadium Road. It was the timely action of neighbouring residents, who took the authorities to court, that saved the park from being converted to a

wedding lawn. However, the scars of this battle still show. The park has been permanently tainted by the addition of a big lawn platform, eating up much valuable space. Another park that was used regularly for amateur cricket matches has been destroyed.

It is sad to note that the custodians of this city, who have been trusted with the well-being of our metropolis, are themselves guilty of destroying its open spaces.

By Moeen Faruqi, member SHEHRI-CBE.



Shamanias covering the Park have become a permanent fixture

PILER



PILER (Pakistan Institute of Labour, Education and Research) is an NGO which grew out of the concern of a number of citizens and concerned individuals in Karachi. Members belonging to the Trade Union movement, academics and professionals from various fields of life decided to come together to discuss the problems affecting workers, about the need to create an informed leadership in the Trade Union movement and about informing workers about the risks they are exposed to at work.

Set up in May 1982 as a non-official and non-profit body, PILER has the following aims and objectives:

- (a) The institute shall be an educational, cultural and literary institution working for the uplift of working people;
- (b) It shall organise and establish research groups to work on different sociological, economic and politico-legal problems of Pakistan and other developing countries;
- (c) It shall print and publish



At 'Workers Education Convention' organised by PILER, seated from left to right are Karamat Ali, Fazle Ghani, Kaiser Bengali, Dr Zaki Hasan - President PILER, Nabi Ahmed, Usman Baloch and Rifat Hussain.

research materials, periodicals and books;

(d) It shall organise training courses in performing arts and undertake cultural activities.

According to Dr. K. Zaki Hasan, President - PILER, as sciences, technology and industry are developing and getting more complex, workers are at risk of being exposed to many more potentially toxic substances, and as a result the types of exposure-

related diseases are also growing more complex. At the same time, better safety systems are being developed. However these are costly and cut into profit margins. They are therefore considered expendable for the Third World where awareness levels on these issues may not be that high, the demand for any type of job is high, life is cheap and even governments are under pressure to produce and export.

Industrial health hazards can arise from physical, chemical, biological, mechanical, ergonomic and psychological factors in the work environment. The exposure-response relationship depends on many factors e.g. dose/concentration, susceptibility, metabolism etc. There can often be a long latency period between onset of exposure and onset of symptoms of ill health. Symptoms can often be of a generalized nature and may be easily missed by practitioners, most of whom are not specially trained in industrial health.

"To create a social order in which the real potential of working people is fully realised and their efforts rewarded judiciously they need to be informed, motivated and mobilized through intellectual and social action."

To realise its objectives the institute works in close collaboration with trade unions, regardless of their political and ideological preferences. It has in the past years developed into a unique educational and research institution as well as a resource

centre for working people.

PILER believes that sustainable development can only be achieved if it follows a substantial degree of awareness about environmental problems in all sections of the population - government and the people, ordinary citizens, women, school goers as well as the highly educated.

PILER's projects have included research in the socio-economic problems of women workers and training courses for shop level and middle level trade union workers. It organises weekly, bi-weekly and six-weekly education courses for shop-level trade union leaders all over Pakistan. It has conducted national surveys of female industrial labour and child labour at Karachi. It also produces reading material in local languages. PILER was recently represented at the hearings of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal on Industrial Hazards and Environmental Pollution in India last year. ■

SEWA

Sewa (Sindh Economic Welfare Association) is an NGO set up in 1991 with its base in Hyderabad, Sindh. Sewa has three major areas of work. One: the social and economic upliftment of the women of Sindh. Two: to guide the young people of Sindh towards economic emancipation. Sewa feels that structural changes can be brought about in the feudal society of Sindh if they succeed in guiding and training a large number of young people in self employment generating schemes and help them start gainful economic activities for their benefit as well as that of their surroundings. Three: Selection of two villages each year and working towards the social and economic well-being of its residents in the areas of health, education, drainage, drinking water and employment as well as other forms of economic sustenance.

Sewa has achieved a lot in its brief existence of less than two years. The Association runs an

industrial home in Naseem Nagar that teaches a large number of girls/women students dress making, embroidery and provides courses in adult literacy. A number of girls trained at this institute have now started earning their own livelihood. Another ready-made garments institute is in its first stage of implementation and will train 50 girl students in the art of dress making each year once it is fully operational.

Sewa has done a considerable amount of work for the economic development of the youth. Part of their plan to alleviate social and economic problems in Sindh, especially in the rural areas, is to help form 1,000 co-operatives of 10 young people each. These youth co-ops will then be helped by Sewa to identify their choice of self employment generating business, they will be trained in the basic sciences of management and to the particular fields of their businesses and will be helped in drawing feasibility reports and to obtain funds. Finally the youth co-

ops will be helped in setting up their businesses and Sewa will monitor their establishments and help overcome their operational problems. Initial work in this regard has already started and a large number of youth co-ops have been identified and registered.

In the third sphere of Sewa's activity, 2 villages are earmarked every year for social and economic development. Two villages near Qasimabad have been supplied with electric power and several residents of villages have been provided with loans to help them set up their own businesses. In the same villages, school children have been provided with books and uniforms.

Sewa has also launched an ambitious plan for those villages and villagers that have unviable land holdings for traditional agriculture by introducing sericulture, (manufacturing silk through silk worms).

Lastly, Sewa has recently announced plans to create Sewa

Women's City in Hyderabad which is perhaps the only project of its kind in the whole country. It provides for an enclosed space that is intended to be utilized for wide-spread training and income generating activities as well as health care and recreational facilities for women. Training programmes like short courses in business management and marketing, secretarial courses, English language classes, computer operation, motor vehicle driving, fine arts and grooming classes are envisaged as are training programmes that help generate income. For example ready made garments manufacture, cloth weaving, manufacture of hand bags and school bags etc. Sewa will encourage women's groups and co-operatives to start income generation activities in the Women's City in either the manufacturing or retailing spheres.

When completed, Sewa Women's city will include special features of women's health care and recreation. Sewa plans to build

a gymnasium and a sports centre as well as an indoor swimming pool where competent lady trainers will raise awareness regarding health care and physical fitness. A large garden and walking track is also planned to provide much needed breathing space and recreation for women. Working women from out of town will be provided accommodation in hostels. Seen with the training programmes described above, a woman's hostel will go a long way in achieving the well being of women in other parts of Sindh.

Says Mr. Abrar Kazi, the Chairman of Sewa, "Sewa is directing all its efforts towards raising the social and economic consciousness of the people of Sindh...it is a momentous and perhaps very difficult task, but we are determined to pursue it with all the means at our disposal."

PILER: 141-D (Annexe), Block 2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi-75400. Tel.# 4557009.

Sewa: 87/88 Nasim Nagar, Qasimabad, Hyderabad. Tel.#653834 ■

SUFI BABA - "THE GENEROUS"

Sufi Baba, as he is called, is an 87 year old man belonging to the Pathan community. He has spent all his life making various products used in our local industries, cars, trucks, buses, airplanes as well as ships. He is a specialist in casting washers, clippings, conveyor belts and numerous other parts for industries and transportation vehicles. He does all the work manually and most importantly, uses waste rubber in the form of belts and other rubber wastes for this purpose.

According to him, he buys the waste (rubber scrap) from dealers in Sher Shah Colony at prices ranging between Rs. 5,000-10,000 per ton depending on the quality of the scrap. All the tools used by him are self-designed from his own experience and by judging market

demands. These range from specially cast iron compasses for marking to large cutters for cutting rubber.

He has been engaged in this work for the past 45 years in a road-side shop near the Karachi Zoological Gardens. During this period he has designed very sophisticated rubber products for industries according to foreign specifications. He sells these products at nominal rates compared to their prices in foreign exchange which would amount to thousands of dollars. People concerned with aviation and maritime activities come to him to order parts for planes and ships etc. He has also trained several people so as to transfer his trade to them. His products for automobiles are in great demand locally. He manufactures steering coasters,



pads, belts, brake-shoes and valves for companies such as Hino and Bedford. Not only that, he can make anything upto 10 feet in diameter. His shop and workshop are worth visiting and are an

example of the work he is doing.

Like Sufi Baba, there are many others with tremendous talents in our country, but they are not being used to the best advantage. The people engaged in waste recycling/

reuse are doing this on their own and are not rewarded for their services. Now is the time to bring their talents out in the open and to provide them with support in the form of financial and technical resources. This would enable our countrymen to improve the quality of their products which will increase the availability of cheaper materials built on foreign specifications at a much lesser comparative price. ■

"Nearly half of the world's species of plants, animals and micro-organisms will be destroyed or severely threatened over the next quarter century. - Peter Raven

IN BRAZIL, THE ECO-FRIENDLY CITY

World," says Jorge Diniz, a bank teller.

Some of Lerner's innovations have caught the attention of the developed world. Last spring, for instance, New York City began experimenting with a low-cost bus system invented in Curitiba as an alternative to subways. Curitiba's "speedy line" uses express street lanes from which cars are banned and loading platforms where passengers pay their fare before boarding the bus. The buses travel through the city at an average speed of 32 km/h (20 m.p.h.) and can transport 3.2 times as many passengers as standard buses can during a given interval. The system was installed in six months. "That," says Lerner, "means you don't have to waste a generation building a subway." People all over Brazil respect Lerner's commonsense approach. He has been mentioned as a candidate to succeed former President Fernando Collor de Mello.

Lerner is quick to point out that the city is hardly a fantasy kingdom; poverty, unemployment and lack of sanitation in the slums remain serious problems. But the people of Curitiba wouldn't think of leaving their "paraiso" or paradise, as Diniz calls it.

(Courtesy TIME Magazine)

Don't believe that everything is different in Curitiba. Like other cities in Brazil, its streets have geometrically-patterned mosaic sidewalks, construction workers like to play football on their lunch breaks, and at night drivers routinely run red lights. But otherwise this city of 2.2 million has little in common with the rest of the country. While most other cities are either stagnating or losing the battle against crime, economic chaos and filth, the capital of the southern state of Parana has blossomed into a clean, safe, efficient, even caring metropolis. Curitiba looks and behaves more like a city in Switzerland or Sweden than one in South America.

That would be a compliment to any town, but local authorities shrug off the comparison and insist that their city is the one that has something to show the rest of the world. At least two global institutions agree: the International Institute for Energy Conservation praised Curitiba's integrated transportation system, and the United Nations Environmental Program honoured its trash-recycling methods. The awards went to the city, and appropriately, to its mayor. Everyone agrees that it is Jaime Lerner who makes the place stand out above others.

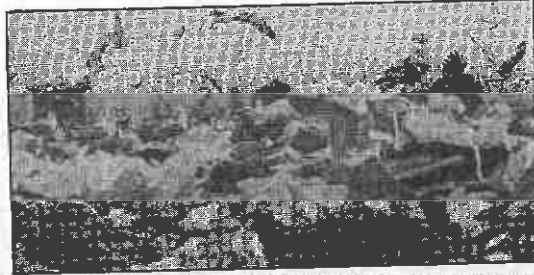
The three-time mayor is an architect by training and one of the

inaugurated his latest brainstorm, a 120-m-long, glass-encased thoroughfare with some 80 shops and services, including restaurants, clothing outlets, bank, bookstore, post office, flower shop and record store, all of which remain open day and night and add big-city excitement downtown.

While some ideas are cosmetic-like the 24-hour street- Lerner focuses most of his innovations on social and environmental problems. Friends like to say he is a Walt Disney with a social conscience. Who else, they ask, would think of converting old buses into vocational classrooms that roll to the outskirts of the city where slum dwellers learn to be hair stylists, typists, mechanics, plumbers or telephone operators? Or staging an exhibition of toys made from trash to educate people about recycling? Or putting in a network of new roads to break the isolation of slums from better-off neighbourhoods, and then building a dozen youth hostels to house and educate street children?

"At first people may not understand my ideas and even criticize them," he says, "but as soon as they realise the changes will improve their lives and that of their children, they want more." An early example came in 1971 after Lerner was initially appointed mayor. Brazil was then pursuing large-scale development schemes, automobile sales were rising rapidly, and cities were paving over parks and other leisure areas for streets, parking lots and buildings. Lerner went in the opposite direction. He created parks, introduced Brazil's first bicycle lanes and converted the city's main street into the country's first pedestrian mall.

While mayors around the world spend their time making excuses for crimes, drugs and urban decay, Lerner has the enviable problem of trying to be modest about his city's success. "Curitiba is different from other Third World cities because it has made an effort to be different," says Lerner. Beginning in 1970 he launched low-cost programmes to build parks, control garbage, house the poor, and develop a mass-transit system. Two decades ago, Curitiba had 0.46 sq m (5 sq ft.) of open space for every citizen; now



The new waste garage for bags of vegetables in areas not served by sanitation trucks.

"Services like parks and high-quality public transportation give dignity to the citizens," says Lerner, "and if people feel respected, they will assume responsibility to help solve other problems."

it has 51 sq m (550 sq ft.). New York City, by contrast, has 14.5 sq m (156 sq ft.) of open space per capita. Most astonishing, Curitiba has added parks and plazas even as its population increased 164% since 1970.

"Services like parks and high-quality public transportation give dignity to the citizens," says Lerner, "and if people feel respected, they will assume responsibility to help solve other problems." Lerner has used his high public approval rating to mobilise support for such initiatives as the establishment of 40 centres that feed street children and teach them simple skills.

Lerner's ideas have made Curitiba some of the most environmentally correct citizens on the planet. While many Brazilians have not even heard of recycling, 4 out of 5 people in Curitiba separate their garbage, and weekly pickups collect an average of 620 tons of reusable trash. A modified version of the city's recovery programme includes 49 neighbouring slums, where Lerner has encouraged residents to collect both recyclable and nonrecyclable trash by providing bus tickets or sacks of

fruits, vegetables and dairy products in exchange for 10-kg bags of garbage. "This 'favela' used to be covered in trash, and we had rats everywhere. But when Jaime began offering food and bus tickets, everybody started collecting garbage," says Divina Aparecida, who lives in the Villa Jacira slum. "People went from dumping trash into their neighbour's yard to packing it up." The same programme is being used in public schools. A woman named Lindamir Vas Floriano says that before this so-called green-exchange programme, her hilly neighbourhood was completely carpeted and plagued by disease. Now the area is almost litter-free, and the people are noticeably healthier.

If Curitiba has a theme, it is self-reliance. The city is not rich, but it makes the most of the resources it has. Recycling, for example, is practically a religion. Jogging paths in the city's many parks are lit with lamps made from Fanta soda bottles, and the offices of Curitiba's environmental department were built in part with old telephone poles.

Lerner's most celebrated success involves the public transit system, a 500-km net that allows passengers to ride from one end of town to another for about 25 cents. Since more than 75% of Curitiba's use buses regularly, compared with 57% of residents in Rio and 45% in Sao Paulo, there is less pollution, and overall fuel consumption is 20% less than in similar-size cities. "I used to travel to work by car, but it just doesn't make sense anymore when you have an efficient and pleasant system as this. It's like Disney



The recycling centre imparts recycling alcoholics.

country's leading urban planners. During 20 years in and out of office, Lerner has made Curitiba his "stage for solutions." Last year, Jaime, as most citizens call him,

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION OF ANOTHER KIND

We talk much about Environmental Pollution—the effluents and hazardous substances we generate and discharge into the land, air and water. But there is another form of Environmental Degradation which is the most dangerous of all pollutants put together. Unfortunately, no one seems to bother about this pollution.

POINT TO PONDER: People are killing the very air. The steam of so much boredom and discontent and anger out of all the people just kills the vitality in the air.

(By Fellow Member SHEHRI-CBE)

SAVING KING SOLOMON'S PINES

Young men in Pakistan, anxious to afford a steep bride-price, have helped damage fabled forests by cutting down a valuable pine species. Now tribal leaders have agreed to stop felling each other's trees and to persuade their people they have more to gain from an intact forest.

Warring tribal leaders in the remote and rugged forests of Shah Sulaiman (King Solomon) in northern Pakistan have set aside their differences and agreed to stop felling the rare chilghoza pine, so their tribes can make a better living from sustainable use of the forest.

About 19,000 people inhabit the breathtakingly beautiful forests of the Takht-i-Sulaiman mountain range near Afghanistan. The forests are privately owned, in a region virtually beyond government control. Here the gun rules.

With little farmland and few income opportunities, the area's

valuable forests are its biggest asset. The chilghoza (*Pinus Gerardiana*), found in a few parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan, can be sold for quick profit, fetching about US\$20 each. As a result, indiscriminate felling threatens to replace long-standing sustainable harvest from the forests.

In the first nine months of 1991, 30,000 trees were chopped down; the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in Pakistan estimates that at that rate the remaining 13,000 hectares of forest would be gone in a decade.

Young men in particular have cut down trees in large numbers to raise the US\$6,000 demanded as a bride-price, but the 40 local men who wanted to marry last year would have found this more difficult because 15 tribal leaders, who between them own 70% of the forest, have agreed to protect the trees. In the past, tribal animosities contributed to the

Warring tribal leaders in the remote and rugged forests of Shah Sulaiman (King Solomon) in northern Pakistan have set aside their differences and agreed to stop felling the rare chilghoza pine, so their tribes can make a better living from sustainable use of the forest.

deforestation, with rival groups cutting down each other's trees.

Despite the money to be made from selling timber, deforestation threatens local incomes, and not just because most of the felled trees are taken away by outsiders

to be sold for their own profit.

One of the most important forest products is the pine kernel, which forms a nutritious staple in the diet of local people, and is popular throughout Pakistan. A family can gather enough to earn up to US\$500 in a season. Mature chilghoza trees also produce an oil which is used to treat skin diseases in sheep and goats; a large can of it sells locally for US\$4.

A third source of income for local people could come from forest wildlife. Their mountainous forests are home to many creatures, including the endangered Sulaiman markhor (*Capra falconeri jerdoni*), a large mountain goat with distinctive corkscrew horns.

The markhor has been a popular target for tribal hunts, its horns decorate many mosques, houses and tombstones, and how only 150 of the animals survive.

However, if the population could be rebuilt to 500 or more, a limited annual hunt could take place.

According to Ashiq Ahmed, WWF Pakistan's head of conservation, two to four animals could be taken each year from a herd that size, earning local people considerable sums from trophy hunters. And a larger herd would provide a tourist attraction, bringing additional revenue. WWF Pakistan has invested US\$32,000 in researching these sustainable uses and encouraging tribal leaders to protect the forests and people's incomes.

Says Ahmed: "As we sat down to talk, the tribals, hawk-eyed and tough, hid their rifles slung across their shoulders." But metaphorically at least, "they laid down their Kalashnikovs, and picked up the olive branch of conservation."

(By Naila Hamid, Courtesy Panoscope January 1993, Panoc)

READERS' VIEWS

From: Mr. Danish Azar Zubey,
Chartered Designer

Travel within Karachi has become a serious health hazard. People are exposed to air, noise and visual pollution that is ugliness instead of aesthetics to look at. Looking at the alarming congestion it is clear that developmental work does not match the astronomical growth of the city. The institutions we have created to govern and manage Karachi have become a joke.

Recently one has been hearing a lot about the beautification of Karachi, (obviously some important areas only that remain in the view of the VVIPs). Some progress has been made, but it is a case of the wrong medicine being prescribed. The most glaring example is the sponsorship of various roundabouts which under the tremendous pressure of traffic may have to be made redundant and replaced by traffic signals or underpasses and overheads.

I would like to make a suggestion in this context. First, question if beautifying the roundabouts is the desperate need of the hour or if our first priority should be multistorey car parks and public conveniences in business districts. Is it not a good idea that some groups, in collaboration with development agencies such as KDA KMC etc. invest in the two. Let us propose a multistorey car park on Iqbal Road or in Bohri Bazar and Saddar and completely PEDESTRIANISE these areas—no vehicular traffic in some areas and compulsory parking.

I spoke to a businessman about this proposal and his first reaction was that multistorey car parks are not financially feasible.

I disagree. Use your imagination to create little niches of self finance in the car parks e.g. a playland for children, day care centres, fast food joints etc. Announce a competition to make this project economically viable. It will remove all negativity, infact it will create employment opportunities.

I think beautiful roundabouts are nice but a chain of half beautiful car parks and public conveniences are even better and long overdue considering the tremendous rise

in the vehicular population of the city. ■

From: Mr. Tariq Banuri,
Executive Director, SDPI

An unsigned article in the December 1992 issue of your esteemed journal carried some allegations regarding the financial support received by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) from the government of Pakistan. I wish to clarify the situation. SDPI has not received any, and I repeat any, financial support from the government. We have received assistance from the Canadian Development Aid Agency (CIDA) through ICUN-Pakistan on account of the support for the National Conservation Strategy (NCS); and from Norwegian Aid Agency (NORAD), as part of their mandate to support and strengthen research capacity in sustainable development in southern countries. The news item published in your journal assumed, mistakenly, that these funds had originated in the government of Pakistan. It is also assumed that SDPI is a new institution, which too is factually incorrect; it has been registered with the government recently, but it has existed for more than two years now.

Let me clarify the second issue first. SDPI is the creation of NCS. The NCS recommendations, drafted as early as 1990, proposed the establishment of a policy research institute in the non-government sector to provide expert advice to the government, NGOs and the private sector on sustainable development. Although the complete document of the NCS was approved by its Steering Committee in June 1991, and by the federal government in March 1992, the design process of SDPI started in 1990, soon after the specific recommendations obtained the approval of the steering committee. The design process organised by IUCN-Pakistan involved a large number of people from various walks of life, Pakistanis as well as expatriates. These included V.A. Jabrey, Dr. Arshad Zaman, Abdur Rahim Mahmood, Khalid Ahmed (Frontier Post), Syed Babur Ali, Dr. Parvez Hassan (EPSOP), Prof. G.M. Khattak, Aban Marker Kabraji (IUCN), Dr. Atta-ur-

Rehman (HEI institute), Shoab Sultan Khan (AKRSP), Javed Jabbar (Baanh Belli), Ross Masood Hussain (PEI), Dr. Amir Mohammad (Asianics), Dr. A.R. Kemal (PIDE), Dr. Moazzam Mahmood (PIDE), Abdullah (PARD), Dr. Pervez Tahir (Planning Commission), Dr. Hamid Kizilbash (SAHE), Dr. Anis Dani (TVO), Dr. Tariq Hussain (EDC), Khawar Mumtaz (Shirkatgah), Dr. Durte Ahmed (NCA); and many others to all of whom we are extremely grateful. A large number of responses were also received to an appeal for advice on the establishment of SDPI published in the NCS bulletin in Autumn 1991.

The extensive consultation process culminated in the drafting of the charter of the Institute, and its registration as a cooperative society on August 4, 1992. The first ten names on the above list constitute its Board of Governors, with one more subsequent addition: Imtiaz Ahmad Sahibzada, Secretary, Environment and Urban Affairs Division. Thus, SDPI did not emerge overnight like a mushroom; it has been designed with great care over a period of two years; its governing structure and mandate has been spelled out in considerable detail. It has the support and confidence of a large number of individuals and institutions in the country. Indeed, we had started producing written materials even before the Institute was formally registered. The office of SDPI is located at No. 46, Street 12, F-6/3, Islamabad. We would like to invite all interested people to visit us and advise us on our work.

Let me turn to the first issue, that of financing. Immediately after registration, we approached a number of possible donors for support for our programme. NORAD replied immediately that they would be interested in providing financial support for the establishment expenses as well as two selected projects, subject to the condition that the government had no objection to it. They themselves approached the government in this regard. It is correct that the government responded positively to this request, and issued a no-objection certificate. However, they would certainly not have done so had it not been (a) that the request had originated with NORAD after their own scrutiny process; and more importantly (b) had not the careful design process of SDPI created the confidence that this would be money well spent. Indeed, without this extensive and careful design process, involving a veritable cross section of the Pakistani society, it is improbable that an external agency like NORAD could have seen fit to allocate a large chunk of its taxpayers' money.

I applaud with all my heart your efforts to monitor the functionings of the government on behalf of the people of this country. We live in a paranoid age in which so many backroom deals are struck that it is valid, even laudable to doubt everything. Yet, may I suggest that it is an essential part of vigilance to hear the full story; it will make your investigative effort even fruitful. I am surprised that no one from your publication tried to contact us to inquire whether the news as reported was correct, and if so why we had participated in a seemingly unethical practice. ■

ENVIRONMENT SHAPING GLOBAL ECONOMY

Environmental trends are now shaping the evolution of the global economy. Efforts to protect the ozone layer, conserve biodiversity and stabilise the climate will affect virtually all industries and open unprecedented business opportunities in the next decade. "Those firms that understand the environmental forces at work and incorporate them into their long-term plans will be the winners. Those that try to protect the status quo will be losers."

"The broader effects of this new industrial revolution will be measured in trillions of dollars including investments in solar power, new transportation

systems and cleaner industrial processes. The environment is now a powerful market force in its own right. The challenge for governments is to supplement regulations with environmental taxes and other measures that help the market shape a sustainable economy."

"Environmentally related industries will be a major source of new jobs in the nineties. In countries that fail to keep up with the pace of change, whether they are rich or poor, income growth and job creation will flag."

Courtesy: DAWN—Economic and Business Review ■

Editor's Note:

The letter above was received in response to an article published in the December 1992 issue of the SHEHRI newsletter. The article entitled "New NGO Provided Rs. 12 Million" was based on a report published in "The News" (16 Oct. 1992) covering the proceedings of the National Assembly. The contributor was Mr. Navaid Hussain whose name was inadvertently missed.

From: Mrs. Amber Alibhai

Illegal commercialisation of PECHS—a menace for the residents!

All of us living in the PECHS area, especially Blocks II, III and VI have observed the fast, haphazard and illegal commercialisation of this suburb. It all began when someone opened up a corner shop—a small provision store. Gradually, this progressed to multi-storey constructions and car show rooms. PECHS is being systematically raped with the connivance of the authorities and the abject apathy of the residents.

In the original masterplan of PECHS, commercial and residential areas were clearly earmarked and the only road that was commercial to a certain extent was Tariq Road. But somehow the spill over affected Allama Iqbal Road, Khalid bin Waleed Road and now Sir Syed Road is

beginning to feel the pressure. None of these roads have been declared commercial to the knowledge and approval of the residents.

The menace most alive is the overnight building of car show rooms without notice and without any care for the environment. The case of Khalid bin Waleed Road is before us where every second house has become a show room. The plots on this road are only of 300 to 400 sq yds., therefore they have encroached upon pedestrian foot paths and have now reached Sir Syed Road. Infact, the Governor of Sindh himself came to inaugurate to latest Daewoo Sales and Service Centre on Sir Syed Road.

Most of us have been living in PECHS for more than thirty years and owe it to ourselves to preserve this area. Not everyone can go and live in Defence or Clifton, neither do we want to. PECHS is an old society; civic amenities were laid down in 1958, we didn't have water shortages, gas and sewerage problems. Why must we lose all this and for what? Why are the authorities so unconcerned? ■

Readers are invited to send in letters with their views, comments etc. However, we reserve the right to edit and print for reasons of space and/or clarity.

YOU CAN SAVE THE WORLD



Use both sides of each sheet of paper whenever possible and collect all discarded paper for recycling.

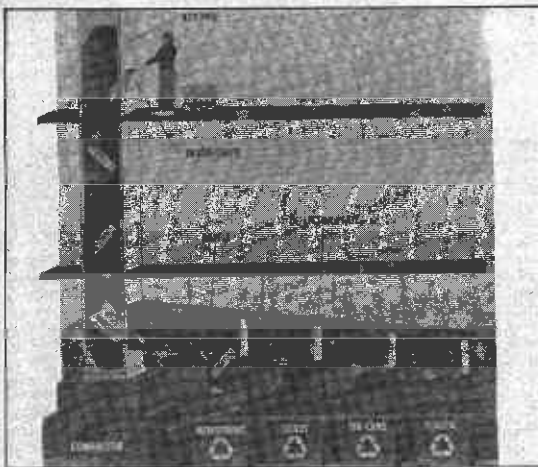
Re-use envelopes for internal mail and with an address label for external use as well.

Some office paper (writing paper and computer paper) is more valuable than newsprint so collect

it and sell it to a waste paper dealer. Remember, the more paper we use, the more trees have to be cut.

Switch off all lights, air conditioners and other electrical equipment when not in use and always before going home.

(Courtesy Asian Palm of the Planet. Illustration by DAZ.) ■



HIGH-RISE RECYCLING

To make recycling convenient for apartments, the Nuretec 3000 Recycling System converts trash chutes into a material-separating system. A

key pad by each chute door enables residents to direct up to seven different materials to the correct bin.

Courtesy: Popular Science—Nov '92

LAND GRABBING ALONG CHINNA CREEK



The residents of Karachi are forever protesting against ongoing land grabbing all over the city by building authorities and property speculators.

The latest of these are underway whereby 75 acres of land will be filled along a part of Chinna Creek (Boat Basin), adjacent to the proposed bypass road leading to Queen's Road. This land falls under the KDA's (Karachi Development Authority) jurisdiction and this operation will be carried out under the orders of Mr. Muzaffar Hussain Shah, Chief Minister Sindh and Mr. Sabhat Ali Khan, DG KDA. This proposed land fill will be called Khekhshah Scheme 5 Extension.

Similarly, KPT (Karachi Port Trust) is proposing to reclaim land

along the Boat Basin adjacent to Shireen Jinnah Colony for the purposes of a residential area.

Karachiites have been left with hardly any recreational and open space. These new developments will block the open view of the sea and start an ongoing operation of property speculation through land fill. These "developments" are a violation of the Masterplan and will further destroy the environment and upset the delicate eco-system.

We request the higher authorities and superior courts to direct the Sindh Government and KPT to desist from this daily occurrence of land grabbing and corruption which has ruined this city because of the greed of a few individuals. ■

CONSTRUCTION IN CHILDREN'S PARK



In July 1991 SHEHRI-CBE reported in its newsletter that a mosque was being constructed on the premises of Dilkushah Children's Park (between Dotmen Centre and Tariq Centre) on main Tariq Road. Recently it was noticed that foundations for the permanent construction of the mosque have been laid. The children's park has been completely taken over and playground equipment has been pushed aside.

The matter was reported to

ZMC East, KMC Land Department and the Anti-Encroachment Cell for further action. According to the KHCA, the builders have been served with a show cause notice urging them to stop construction but have not paid any heed so far.

We are sure that an alternative spot for a mosque could be found on Tariq Road without constructing one on an amenity plot and depriving the residents of this city of one of the few open spaces left in Karachi. ■

DESTROYING OUR PAST



Driving through Karachi, one sees flats and high-rise buildings coming up in many areas to accommodate the city's growing population. These buildings are being erected not only in the newer outskirts of Karachi such as Gulistan-e-Jauhar and Clifton, but also in the older parts of the city. And it is in these older areas of Karachi that these structures are doing the most damage.

These buildings are being constructed by destroying Karachi's architectural heritage, the old houses and mansions built in the 1930s, '40s and '50s. These magnificent examples of architecture are being pulled down, thereby destroying this city's link with the past.

The destruction of these houses can be witnessed in areas such as Amil Colony, near Jamsheed Road (as the photograph shows), or

MILITARY, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

"I have no high opinion of human beings, they are always going to fight and do nasty things to each other... But if that's so, the only thing you can do with them is to see that the weapons they have are not too terrible. You must prevent them from playing with the worst kind of toys." - George F. Kennan, 'Why Nuclear Weapons Should Be Totally Eliminated' (1976).



1. More than 200,000 Bangladeshis were killed in recent cyclones. It is a regular feature of life in Bangladesh. These deaths could have been prevented by building sturdy proof shelters at the cost of \$500 million or half a day's expenditure of "Operation Desert Storm".

2. Arms import of developing countries between 1975 and 1985 accounted for a 40% increase in their foreign debt in that period.

3. For the cost of one nuclear warhead, 4,000 health workers could be trained.

4. A 5% reduction in global military expenditure would free \$50 billion which can change the world beyond comprehension.

5. Since World War II, 127 wars were waged and all but two involved the developing

countries claiming 22 million casualties where 13 million were civilian. This man-made havoc and famines are the result of the direct involvement of arms suppliers i.e. the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

6. By the year 2020 the world's affordable oil reserve will be exhausted. Yet peacetime military consumption of fossil fuel is enormous. A single F15 fighter with one man on board burns 25 gallons a minute and at full throttle (ie fuel consumption is an enormous 240 gallons per minute. Yet a fully loaded passenger jet



consumes 17 millions per minute.

7. The world produces enough food to feed more than the current global population, but 850,000 people are chronically malnourished.

8. Since World War II, prices of high-tech US weapons have increased 200 fold, and the general price level 7 fold.

9. The income of the richest fifth of the world's population averages 50 times the income of the poorest fifth.

10. Carbon emissions from fossil fuels have increased from near zero a century ago to more than a ton per person today.

11. In the tropical forests, ten trees are cut for every one planted.

12. The industrial countries devote over \$500 billion a year to military defense and \$47



billion to aid the development of the poorer countries.

13. In the last 20 years over 1.6 billion people were added to the global population, while the world lost to environmental damage 480 billion tons of top soil, essential for maintaining the food supply.

14. Developing countries have eight times as many soldiers as physicians.

15. The world's armed forces are the single largest polluter on earth; in the US they produce more toxics annually than the top five chemical companies combined.

16. The price of one ballistic submarine (\$1,453,000,000) would double the education budgets of 18 poor countries with 129,110,000 children to educate.

17. The sales of weapons to poor countries should be opposed as vehemently as the illicit transfer of addictive drugs to affluent societies. ■

(Courtesy IPPNW)

SAVING THE LIFE OF THE PLANET

Nature is like business. Business sense dictates that we guard our capital and live from interest. Nature's capital is the enormous diversity of living things. Professor Edward Wilson of Howard University: "The folly our descendants are least likely to forgive us is the ongoing loss of genetic and species diversity. This will take millions of years to correct."

Only 150 plant species have ever been widely cultivated. Yet over 75,000 edible plants are known in the wild. In a hungry

world, with a population growing by 90 million each year, so much wasted potential is tragic. Medicines from the wild are worth around \$40 billion a year. Over 5,000 species are known to yield chemicals with cancer-fighting potential. So the known diversity of the living world is crucial to the human future.

The places that support most diversity are tropical rainforests, coral reefs, mangrove swamps and coastal wetlands. But these are being degraded or "developed". An area of tropical forest four times

the size of Switzerland disappears every year. Mangroves are being destroyed or seriously degraded all over the world. In Asia, alone, 500,000 hectares a year are destroyed. Habitat destruction triggers large-scale extinction of species. All benefits mankind derives from biological diversity are gone forever. ■

Courtesy WWF

Spending a little time and making an extra effort is all it takes to buy a better life for those who follow.

SIMPLE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT

SHOPPING BAGS

We take it for granted that each time we go shopping we will be given a bag to carry our purchases. Do we really need to use millions of bags annually?

Remember:

* Plastic shopping bags are often more convenient than paper, but they are not degradable. Even biodegradable plastic bags never completely disappear. They just break up into small pieces. All plastic bags are made from petroleum, a non-renewable resource.

* Plastic bags often end up in the sea and kill aquatic animals that get tangled up in them or swallow them.

* The ink used on printed plastic bags contains cadmium, a toxic heavy metal. When these bags are burned, heavy metals

are released into the atmosphere.

* Paper bags are reusable and biodegradable.

Actions to take:

* You can wash out plastic bags and reuse them instead of getting new ones each time you buy something. Remember, all shopping bags are reusable.

* Paper or plastic? Think twice before taking any bag if your purchase is small. If every shopper takes just one bag less each month, thousands of bags can be saved every month. Always demand biodegradable packaging e.g. ask for newspaper bags instead of plastic ones.

* Bring along a cotton washable bag with you when you shop. They are easy to carry and fold up conveniently.

By Dr. M. Rehman Tayab

Don't hose your car. Use a bucket of water and save over 100 gallons of water each time.