



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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The Makro Saga: A David vs Goliath Tale !

In this **SPECIAL REPORT**, Shehri documents the case of the wholesale store Makro, built on an amenity plot in Jacob Lines (popularly known as Lines Area in Karachi) where the residents, supported by Shehri waged a tireless campaign to seek justice and protect the environmental and legal sanctity of their neighbourhood

SHV Holdings, founded in 1896 – the result of a merger between a number of large coal trading companies is a family owned company and a super heavyweight in Dutch commerce. The firm, which is the largest private company in the Netherlands, has global interests in energy, retail, and raw-material distribution businesses.

The company is one of the world's top liquefied petroleum gas companies, and owns US scrap metal company David J. Joseph and German-based metal recycling firm TSR Recycling. SHV also operates the Makro store chain in Asia and South America. The company today has 5 activities in 29 countries on 4 continents and employs about 31, 400 people.

Makro Habib Pakistan Limited (MAKRO), was formed as a joint venture between SHV Holdings, NV, Netherlands and the House of Habib, Pakistan.

MAKRO

SHV is active with its Makro stores in Asia and South America. Makro is a cash and carry wholesaler, selling high volume food and non-food products to registered professional customers. Target customer groups are small and medium size retailers, caterers, individual customers and the institutional market. The mission statement of the Makro is the distribution of products with excellence in price, quality and variety to professional customers. At the end of 2006 Makro South America had 103 stores, Makro Asia 69 stores. The Makro South America head office is located in Sao Paulo, the head office of Makro Asia in Bangkok, Thailand.

Note: SHV's shares are not traded on any stock market; they are privately owned by the descendants of the founders and their relatives, and members of the Supervisory Board of Directors and Executive Board of Directors.

The Case

Discussed as follows is the *Case* that was developed and argued in favor of Makro-Habib Pakistan Limited (MAKRO) ceasing operations of its store constructed on a public amenity plot and dismantling its facility so that the said plot can be restored to its rightful status. The ownership of land and the subsequent construction involved related legal violations and environmental degradation that include illegal transfer of land, illegal and unauthorized conversion of land (*zoning violation*), defiance of Court orders, violation of the national environmental regulations and compliance procedures, environmental degradation in the locality and the associated human rights violations

The *Case* was built with respect of the company's similar actions (*not only in the case of the 'Webb Ground' plot*) in Lahore City and in two other instances in Karachi City. The *Case* was placed within the broader context of the major





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Editorial

Goodbye Ms. Mansoor..... We miss you!

On July 31st, 2009 our beloved Ms. Shameem Mansoor breathed her last in the USA. A selfless soul, she had dedicated her whole life to social and community work. First in the government, in the social welfare department where despite serious medical problems she worked tirelessly in various far off corners of the Sindh province under extreme weather and harsh living conditions and then with Shehri



where she was a source of constant inspiration, advice and guidance to all the management, staff and countless others that visited the Shehri office to seek help and advice. An extremely well groomed and cultured lady, with a wonderful sense of humor, her pleasant and dignified presence in Shehri was a great resource during trying times. Whether it was praying for the safety of the Shehri members in times of crisis, keeping a tight watch on the staff in the daily work (though always tinged with motherly affection!) or representing Shehri with cultured elegance she would always do her organization proud.

Even her spare time was spent on others. Ever searching for a cause to link up with, whether it was supporting a school, funding someone's education or just lending a kind ear to someone's grievances, she epitomized the spirit of selflessness and human kindness. We at Shehri mourn her loss - we miss her physical presence, her contagious laughter and her sound advice but would also always remember and cherish her in our hearts. May her soul rest in peace. Amen ☐



urban development concerns in Pakistan that include violations of land use and zoning regulation and environmental degradation.

Webb Ground – Site of the Makro Cash & Carry Departmental Store (Illegal transfer of land and unauthorized conversion of land use)

In 1938 (prior to the creation of Pakistan, during British Colonial rule), the 'Webb Ground' (4,958 acre), Plot#148/1, Tunisia Line was leased by the sanction of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Command to the Karachi Grammar School (KGS) to be used as a 'recreation ground'. The Ministry of Defence (MoD), Government of Pakistan maintained a status of A-2 Military land (land not actually used or occupied by the military, but used for non-essential activities such as recreation) for the said plot. The school used it regularly for sporting events, matches and athletics. The KGS 'Annual Sports Day' was held at the ground. In 1975, the 'Lines Area Redevelopment Project' (LARP), Scheme #35, Gulshan-e-Zahoor (an urban renewal project) was conceived by the Karachi Development Authority (now defunct). The bulk of the area which was proposed to be included in the LARP (including the Webb Ground) belonged to the Federal Government – Ministry of Defence. By virtue of an arrangement reached between the Ministry of Defence and the Provincial Government of Sindh and the Karachi Development Authority (KDA) in 1976, an area measuring about 191,713 acres was transferred by the MoD to the provincial government of Sindh province whereas the rest of the area falling within the Karachi Cantonment Board limits was retained by the MoD.

It is the position of Shehri-CBE that is supported by documentary proof and endorsed by the City District Government Karachi (CDGK) and the LARP management that the 'Webb Ground' was part of the land transferred for use in the LARP project.

However, on October 21st, 2002, the MoD, Government of Pakistan, reclassified the said plot from category

A-2 to B-4, thus laying claim on the said plot (and maintaining that the said plot was never transferred to the LARP by the MoD). They further sanctioned a grant for its lease to the Army Welfare Trust for use in commercial purposes. Subsequently, on July 7th, 2006, the 'Webb Ground' plot was sub-leased by the Army Welfare Trust (AWT) for an initial period of 30 years to the joint venture, Makro-Habib Pakistan Limited (MAKRO), for the establishment of a 'Cash & Carry' departmental store – a clear case of a 'Lease Agreement Violation'



The Response

The sub-lease of the 'Web Ground' plot by the AWT to MAKRO was followed by the following sequence of events:

- ❖ The City Nazim (Mayor), in a letter dated December 1, 2006 to the AWT, states the City government's (LARP) claim over the said plot
- ❖ In a series of letters addressed to the CEO, SHV Holdings NV, Shehri-CBE protests against the company's involvement in an 'illegal' sub-leasing of land and 'illegal' conversion of land use (from amenity/playground to commercial). Shehri-CBE also demands a stop to the construction of the departmental store
- ❖ Shehri-CBE holds a meeting (February 27, 2007) with the MAKRO management to convey its concerns
- ❖ A number of articles appear in the leading newspapers of the country exposing the deal between AWT and MAKRO as a major 'land scam'
- ❖ In response to Shehri-CBE's inquiries, the City Government reiterates its stand that the "LARP

has not changed the land use of the plot and till to date this plot is a playground in the approved Master Plan of LARP Scheme 35, CDGK

- ❖ It is interesting that despite that fact that the MAKRO management continue to publicly accept and acknowledge the control of AWT on the said plot and had entered into a 'Memorandum of Understanding with them, they continue to seek CDGK and LARP's permission to start work on their project
- ❖ In 2007, a resident of the area, Mehfooz-un-Nabi Khan s/o Aftab Ahmed Khan, who had also served as a Mayor and Councilor of the locality, files a 'Public Interest Litigation' in the provincial High Court (highest court of the province) against the City Government/LARP, the Chief Controller of Buildings, the Secretary, Environment, Government of Sindh, the AWT and MAKRO and asks for a halt to the construction work and re-instatement of the status of the 'Webb Ground' as a playground/amenity plot
- ❖ The High Court of Sindh requests Shehri-CBE to become interveners in the case. Shehri-CBE accepts the court's request
- ❖ On August 22, 2007, the High Court issues a 'status quo' order in CP 1740/07. At the same time the High Court requests Shehri-CBE to become *Amicus Curie* in the case
- ❖ In defiance of the High Court's order, MAKRO advertises in the press on August 27, 2007, inviting the public to register at the MAKRO Office as 'customers'



- ❖ In defiance of the High Court's order, MAKRO continues construction work at the site
- ❖ On July 16, 2007, MAKRO files a suit (# 926/07) against Shehri-CBE in the High Court of Sindh claiming 'harassment' but fails to obtain an injunction from the Court
- ❖ On August 14, 2007, MAKRO conducts a 'soft opening' of the store
- ❖ Residents of the area register a complaint against the "Environmental Pollution and Nuisance caused by Makro Cash & Carry Mega-store" to the relevant authorities on August 06, 2007, citing the following concerns:
 - Location of the store blocks access of clean air in the neighborhood
 - Installation of three large power generators has resulted in "tremendous" noise and air pollution in the neighborhood
 - Since the construction of the store, sewage overflows have become a regular feature in the neighborhood and due to improper drainage, a 'cesspool' of sewage has developed in front of the store
 - The store has blocked access to a school in the neighborhood resulting in great inconvenience to the parents/children
 - The store has been built on the only land that served as a playground for the children of the locality (area population - about 250,000). They have thus been deprived of this open,

recreational space

- The store has been built in such a way that entrance to the neighborhood has been narrowed and no vehicle can now enter the lane. This is cause of serious concern, particularly in emergency situations
- On the request of Shehri-CBE, a reputed firm of Consulting Engineers (*Fahim Nanji & Desouza*) conduct sound level recordings at the site of the Makro store (*September 7, 2007*) and conclude that the 'measurements taken reflect an unacceptable level for continuous exposure to persons, and will result in hearing damage and build-up of psychological stresses'

Shehri-CBE's management had one meeting with the MAKRO management where they denied Shehri-CBE's claims and documentary evidence of illegal activity. On the other hand, all the letters/emails sent to the SHV Holdings in the Netherlands yielded no response

Arguing the Case

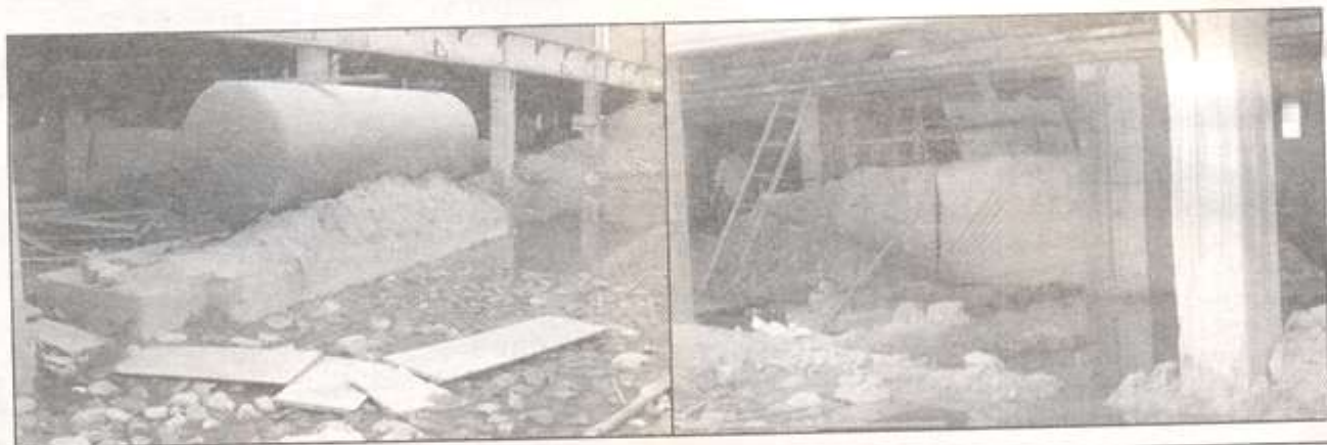
Shehri-CBE had identified the following irregularities and illegalities in the MAKRO case in terms of land control, land use and environmental violations of the relevant rules and regulations:

Legal Violations

The Webb Ground was absorbed into the LARP scheme and was retained as a playground in Block 7 of KDA Scheme #35 Master Plan. In a letter dated February 17, 2007, the Project Director

LARP, CDGK confirmed that the "LARP has not changed the land use of the plot and till to date this plot is a playground in the approved Master Plan of LARP Scheme 35"

On December 19, 2002, the Webb Ground plot, which had earlier been very arbitrarily 'commercialized' by the MoD without carrying out any town planning studies or ascertaining the availability of enhanced utilities and infrastructure, was leased for 90 years to the AWT. Thereafter, 'Rangers' (*Para-military forces*) were posted on the site to guard the premises. Such an ad-hoc conversion of an amenity playground plot to commercial use is against the principles of justice, and is in violation of urban planning laws. This illegality was further compounded when the AWT further sub-leased this plot to MAKRO for the construction of a Cash & Carry store. In defiance of the High Court's order, MAKRO advertises in the press on August 8, 2007, inviting the public to register at the MAKRO Office as 'customers' and also continued with construction work at the site 'Pakistan Environmental Protection Act of 1997' (*PEPA 1997*), and 'Pakistan Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation of 2000', provide for categories of projects that require 'Environmental Impact Assessment' (*EIA*) and 'Initial Environmental Examination' (*IEE*) in view of the relative significance and magnitude of the environmental impact of the proposed projects. It is stated that for the MAKRO project, no IEE report was ever submitted to the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency for





its approval. Therefore, in accordance with Section 12 of PEPA 1997, construction could not have been initiated.

Without prejudice to the fact that the Webb Ground is a part of LARP of CDGK, the lease deed between AWT and MAKRO is not stamped according to the 'Stamp Act'. The lease has been drawn on stamp paper of value only Rs.100/-, therefore robbing the Provincial Exchequer of millions of Rupees. Moreover, the lease deed is not registered. Any right in land for more than 6 months needs to be registered compulsorily under the Registration Act of 1908, and if not registered, then it cannot be relied upon.

Without prejudice to the fact that the Webb Ground is a part of LARP of CDGK, the building has been occupied without the mandatory *Completion Certificate* of Karachi Cantonment. The *Completion Certificate* can only be issued after the building and all the drainage and water arrangements have been completed. However, MAKRO started operations without the building and ancillary structures and drainage systems being completed.

Environmental Concerns

In the absence of a drainage system, a huge cesspool has been created right next to where perishable food products are being sold. The collected sewage is also an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes thus exposing the whole adjoining residential area as well as the store visitors to various infections including the potentially life threatening endemic 'dengue fever'. Another health

hazard is the constant noise of the continuously running power generators (3#) of 500 kVA each, as the store has as yet not been connected to the main electricity grid. The generator sound recording done at the adjacent residences and schools gives a noise level of 85 db, equivalent to the noise of a constantly ringing alarm-clock. The EPA and international standards for noise levels in a residential area is 40 db and for schools is 30 db or less. A constant exposure to noise levels of 85 db would result in permanent hearing damage and anti-social behavior.

Serializing the Violations Violations of Land Use

- Commercializing an 'amenity area'
- Depriving the local community of the only playground facility available in the area

Violation of Construction Codes

- No approval
- No completion or occupancy certificate
- Provision of insufficient infrastructure

Environmental and Health Hazards

- Causing sewage overflows/improper drainage causing a cesspool to develop in the area
- Noise/Air pollution
- Sale of perishable food products right next to the sewage cesspool

MAKRO - Setting a trail of disputes and controversies

It is not that MAKRO operations in Pakistan have not been trouble free or challenged on such matters before. MAKRO's dealings in land acquisitions for their stores, even other than the LARP/Webb Ground land acquisition have been full of controversies:

- For its first store in Karachi, (*the store being operated in the Webb Ground plot is the second such store in Karachi City*) an industrial plot in the S.I.T.E locality was used, but a dispute still persists with the leasing authorities on the payment of commercialization charges
- The attempted commercialization of a 10 acre amenity fruit garden plot in Lahore city's (*Pakistan's second largest city*) Model Town Society has been challenged by area residents and members of the society. The observations of the learned Lahore High Court Judge in the case are noted as follows:

"In short, before the proposed project can be undertaken, the Master Plan of the Society would require to be amended by the Society itself in accordance with its bye-laws and the 'Cooperative Societies Act 1925' and rules framed there under and there after the requisite permission and sanction would require to be obtained from the concerned Town Municipal Administration regarding change in land use. Both actions are obviously justifiable separately under the 'Cooperative Societies Act 1925' and the Punjab Local Government Ordinance 2001 and also perhaps before the Courts including this Court. Furthermore, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) would have to be obtained from the concerned Government Agency specified under the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997 which action too is justifiable".

- A dubious 8.5 acre land deal on Shakra-e-Faisal, Karachi (for the setting up of MAKRO's third store in Karachi) has been reported in the press



The Company - violating its own corporate ethics?

According to the SHV Management: *"SHV's most important values are integrity and loyalty. Integrity means being honest, genuine and totally open in communications about all matters that concern the company. Based on the integrity and loyalty of our people, SHV wishes to continue to grow both for the benefit of our shareholders, our employees and for the well-being of the society in which we live and work"*. It is also claimed that:

"We are strongly involved in the development of many aspects of our immediate environment. A sustainable and positive development of the society in which we work and live is also to our own benefit. It is not by coincidence that this has been fundamental in the SHV Corporate Philosophy for many years.

In many ways our companies give a more specific interpretation to their social engagement in the countries in which they operate. This is not a recent development but has been the case for many years. It takes place in many different ways, as can be expected in our decentralized organization. Examples are activities that support social and cultural projects, promote sports, help the disabled, promote educational programs and protect the environment.

Clearly, the ongoing and proposed practices related with the opening and operation of Makro stores in Pakistan do not seem to conform to their stated corporate philosophy and commitments to the society at large.

The Charge sheet

It was quite clear that MAKRO had blazed a trail of legal violations and environmental degradation and had willfully participated after being aware of the relevant facts (*not only in the case of the 'Webb Ground' plot but in Lahore City and in two other instances in Karachi City*) in the :

- Illegal transfer of land
- Illegal and unauthorized conversion of land (*zoning violation*)
- Defiance of Court orders
- Violation of the national environmental regulations and compliance procedures
- Environmental degradation in the locality
- Human Rights violations
- Depriving the children of a low income community of its only playground

What needs to be done?

The 'right to life' for citizens is being increasingly interpreted by the superior courts as 'right to a clean, healthy and unpolluted environment'. People living in the urban areas have an entitlement to a people friendly built environment, to open spaces for recreation and fresh air, to playgrounds for children, to schools, hospitals and social amenities, to libraries and theatres, to proper transport systems and roads, to freedom from air and noise pollution, to adequate utilities and infrastructure, and the like. Unfortunately, land in Karachi is being increasingly abused by violation of urban planning principles, including unlawful allotment of unplanned tracts, arbitrary conversion of land-use, and construction of illegal buildings.

The applicable town planning and building laws are ignored, misinterpreted or violated for personal gain. This has resulted in severe deterioration of the built environment of the city. The citizens have filed hundreds (*if not thousands*) of cases in order to try and help the judges of our courts to realize the potential devastation.

End Game

The courts have again come to the rescue of the citizens. The Supreme Court of Pakistan then took suo moto action to revive the Makro case and on October 10 2009, a special bench of the Supreme Court presided over by M. Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, CJ. Mr. Justice Ghulam Rabbani, Mr.

Justice Jawwad S. Khawaja passed the following order:

Order

We have heard arguments of the parties, during the course whereof it transpired that Makro-Habib will consider a proposal if given to it for an alternate site on the land belonging to AWT, if some suitable site is available for this purpose. Dr. Raza Gardezi appearing on behalf of Shehri-CBE with the help of "google earth" pointed out the four sites owned by AWT are available in the same vicinity where Makro-Habib exists. Copy of the same has been handed over to the learned Attorney General for Pakistan as well as Mr. Khalid Anwar, learned Sr. ASC.

It is pointed out by the learned counsel appearing on behalf of AWT that after seeking instructions he would be in a position to make a statement. Mr. Khalid Anwar contended that Makro-Habib has already considered the viability of shifting its store, if at all, the consent is given by the Company, therefore he has also to seek instructions. The learned Attorney General was exactly of the same view.

Therefore, in the circumstances, we adjourn this case for tomorrow i.e. 2-10-2009 enabling the learned counsel for AWT as well as the learned Attorney General to make a statement in this behalf particularly, to the effect as to whether in the given facts and circumstances of the case and the arguments advanced on behalf of the parties, Makro-Habib can be accommodated at an alternate site.

And so unfolds this saga! and David slays the Goliath! ☐

SHEHRI ACTIVITIES

Shehri Seminars

A total of two Focus Group Discussions and a Seminar were held with regards Shehri's work of capacity building of the local media on CSR related matters and the preparation of Media Toolkit on CSR for the media (In collaboration with SOMO – Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations, the Netherlands)

Focus Group Discussion 1

(Saturday, 14 February, 2009, Avari Towers – Karachi)

Eight Karachi-based journalists participated in the first *Focus Group Discussion* for media on CSR. The journalists were drawn from TV, newspapers (both English and Urdu dailies) and from radio.

The first presentation by **Khadeeja Balkhi** focused on defining CSR. She explained that it wasn't just a question of charity or philanthropy, as per common perception. The definition had evolved to represent an ethic that holistically evaluated the overall impact of a company on society in general, and on its employees, suppliers, customers, and other individuals or organizations directly affiliated with its operations.

She explained the concept of *Triple Bottom Line*, which assessed a company's success not just in terms of profitability but also in terms of the impact on the environment and on society.

In Pakistan, the concept was beginning to gain popularity mostly among multinational corporations that strived

to model themselves as corporations with a conscience. The *Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI's)* definition of CSR was that of inclusive development – to do what is meaningful for the maximum number of people in the country.

During discussions, journalists asked how they could ascertain whether a company was practicing CSR. Khadeeja explained that a good starting point is to check the company's balance sheet to see whether 1% of their pre-tax profit has been donated to a worthy cause. This is the bare minimum a company should do but many don't do even this, she pointed out.

Khadeeja explained that in the case of multinationals whose headquarters were in countries where CSR guidelines and practice had been adopted, were very mindful of CSR principles. And if they transgressed, there were accountability mechanisms that could be used.

In the case of local companies that were not bound by these guidelines and principles, there were ways journalists could hold them accountable. For example, if one newspaper refused to

publish a critical story, then it could perhaps be shared with another reporter from a media outlet that was willing to run it. Moreover, to ensure safety in numbers a sensitive story against a powerful entity could be published and run as a campaign by several media outlets rather than by one reporter and his/her paper or channel.

The next presentation was by **Farhan Anwar**, who shared with participants the most comprehensive instruments and guidelines on CSR. Farhan explained that by instruments he meant a specified code of conduct that corporations could follow. He outlined the importance of developing instruments. Businesses are keen to improve performance and minimize risk. Governments want corporate sector practices to complement their own standards while civil society is focused on public interest.

Of the dozens of instruments developed globally, he selected three that were the most comprehensive and relevant in Pakistan i.e. the OECD guidelines, the ILO guidelines, and the UN Global Compact. Comparing the three instruments on various factors, Farhan said the OECD guidelines were the most comprehensive.

In the ensuing discussions, questions were raised about applicability of CSR instruments in the Pakistani context. Both Farhan and Khadeeja explained that CSR, globally, was a voluntary practice hence it depended on corporations' own sense of responsibility, obligation and conscience.





She also explained that the practice of CSR could only exist in places and companies that had a long-term perspective on success, profits and sustainability. Such an environment and attitude towards business did not exist in Pakistan hence it was difficult to expect a CSR culture to evolve here.

However, Farhan explained, that in weak governance zones (like Pakistan) the role of the media and civil society to act as watchdog on MNEs who could easily abandon CSR in view of the lack of accountability and legal safeguards, became increasingly vital. Khadeeja said the media should look at the big picture and at solutions, not at scoops. For example, while an exposé of a factory discharging untreated effluent is good, the focus should be on the need for an effluent plant, rather than on one polluting industry. She also advised journalists to consider the greater good, explaining that if an exposé caused an industry to shut down, many people would be out of jobs. The media should instead encourage the industry to 'clean up its act' as a way of giving back to society and fulfill their responsibility.

In the end, journalists around the table shared their own experiences of bringing about accountability. They also asked



for information on existing legislation on the environment in order to educate themselves about the legal framework that regulates the functioning of business and industry.

Focus Group Discussion 2

Friday, 24th April 2009 – Hotel Avari Towers

After a round of introductions, the first speaker of the event, Mr. Shahid Lutfi was invited to make his presentation about existing laws on environmental protection in Pakistan.

Laws to protect Pakistan's environment

He began by posing the question, what is environmental legislation?

This he answered by defining environmental laws as "guidelines to least disturb the balance in the ecosystem." He said this imbalance could cause anything from asthma in individuals to depletion of the ozone layer.

The key environmental legislation, Mr Lutfi said, is the Pakistan Environment Protection Act (formerly an Ordinance). He said this was the first legislation on the environment and was a very comprehensive piece of legislation.

Another important piece of legislation is the National Environment Quality Standards (NEQS). These, he said, specify the maximum level of pollution permitted to be legally discharged into the environment in any form: liquid, gaseous, vehicular emission, noise (by cars).

In 1997, PEPA introduced punishment for non-compliance which was groundbreaking.

The EPA could also issue an Environment Protection Order, which Mr Lutfi described as "a drawn arrow" that can be issued in case of a violation. Other safeguards are the requirement of a license to import or export hazardous waste.

An Environment Assessment Package contains guidelines for any kind of infrastructure development such as roads, etc. An Environment Improvement Charge has also been introduced, which is essentially a cost to be levied for pollution but this has not been implemented, because there is no mechanism for calculating the fine to be paid.

CASE STUDIES

A. European carpet-bagger MAKRO

Presenter: Dr. Raza Gardezi, Shehri-CBE

"CSR goes beyond the law," said Dr Raza Gardezi. In presenting Shehri's case against the Dutch wholesaler, MAKRO, Dr. Gardezi observed that foreign multi-national corporations are as lacking as Pakistani companies in Corporate Social Responsibility. "MNCs have no sense of responsibility or commitment to the environments they work in," he said, adding that this had been his experience as proved by the MAKRO case.

Dr Gardezi explained that the wholesale store, MAKRO, had built a facility in Jacob Lines, popularly known as Lines Area in Karachi. The company, which has a local partner, Habib Group, had committed 3 kinds of violations:

1. Encroachment/land use violation – The facility was built on an amenity plot - a playground
2. Environmental/health hazard – the construction had damaged the sewerage lines which created

health hazard for residents; noise pollution from the generators was also a menace and an environmental hazard

3. Disrespect of laws – by showing utter disregard for High Court Orders, MAKRO made a mockery of the country's judiciary and rule of law.



The area's residents complained of:

- Ventilation blockage
- Noise pollution from generators (105 db when the maximum can be 85 db)
- Sewage overflows
- Blocked access to school
- Store built on playground

Dr Gardezi pointed out that other Makro outlets have also violated land use in other parts of the city, so it seems to be pattern with the company. The billion-dollar question, said Dr Gardezi, is: "Could Makro act this way in Europe?" He suggested that the media could create a Hall of Shame for such companies. His final observation was that companies like MAKRO and Habib Group justify these violations because the people they are endangering are poor – "because they are 'children of a lesser God'," he said.

B. SITE Area Case Study – Gharib Sons

Presenter: Ghazah Abbasi, Collective for Social Science Research

In January 2006, a company by the name of Gharib Sons dumped hazardous waste

on an empty plot (#F 620-621) in SITE Town. This plot was frequented by children as a playground. By April 2006, 20 individual cases of burn injuries among the boys who played in the plot had been reported. The children were from 8 residential colonies in SITE town, essentially an industrial zone. While a medico-legal report has yet to be issued three years on, Geo TV's coverage of the incident brought the issue to the notice of the Sindh EPA. When the EPA swung into action, an FIR was registered and the factory owners were arrested. This emboldened the community and an Action Committee was formed comprising local residents and activists, trade unions from the factories in SITE, the HRCP, and the affectees. They began to raise awareness through the media, which did its part in giving the story continuous coverage. The Action Committee also urged the authorities to take action.

A case was filed in court against the perpetrators and the Committee networked with researchers, lawyers, doctors, development workers, and the media to publicize the issue and push for a favorable decision in court. Finally, in January 2007, a High Court ruling ordered the hazardous waste to be removed from the site, banned the future dumping of hazardous chemicals in open areas, commanded businesses and government to ensure proper disposal of hazardous waste, and mandated businesses and government to submit monthly reports of their waste disposal activities. After a series of appeals, a public settlement – the first with a corporate entity – was reached in November 2008 and is part of public record.

Commenting on the role of the media, Ghazah said in the SITE case, the victims' case was presented in such a way that it empowered the victims. The media also played its traditional

watchdog role, creating a sense of accountability and shaming the accused to the point where they were unable to harass the victims' families, as is usual in such cases – particularly when the victims are poor and the perpetrators rich.

The case also served to establish some norms for businesses operating in the SITE area. In winning the case, the importance of responsibilities of businesses to victims was spelt out. Not only to victims, but the message was that businesses have a responsibility to society. The court banned the dumping of hazardous waste and also required the submission of monthly reports on waste generation and disposal practices i.e. enforcing existing legislation. In summation, Ghazah pointed out that businesses will not voluntarily adopt pro-worker policies; the media has to join forces with NGO/advocacy organizations in order to press for workers' rights. She said there was an imbalance of material power between workers and industrialists, and this could be rectified if the media gave power to the voiceless.

C. British Petroleum – Badin Rural Development Society Case Study *Presenter: Khadim Hussain, Badin Rural Development Society*

In his presentation, Khadim Hussain of the Badin Rural Development Society said British Petroleum began operations in Pakistan in 1979 as Union Texas and currently produces an average 21,000 to 25,000 barrels of oil per day from more than 250 wells across a 40km area. In contrast, he presented Badin's development indicators: literacy levels of 24.63% of which female literacy is





12.9%; 86% of the population considered to be poor; 27% of the population living on less than Rs1,000 per day; only 18% have access to potable water; 40% of women have to travel long distance to get saline water; 22% of girls are not enrolled in school because they need to help in fetching water.

BP's development claims include the construction of a "European standard" hospital in Kario Ghanwar which is equipped with snake-bite serum, a basic health unit, but the fact is that Kario Ghanwar health unit is a dispensary and in very poor condition. In the context of infrastructure development, BP claims to have built 488 kilometers of roads 2000, in addition to 40 bridges over drains and 1000 water courses for agriculture improvement on al of which the company claims to have spent 20 crore rupees. However, the reality is that:

- All the bridges are moveable and the company used them for moving heavy machinery and vehicles.
- The roads have been made in marshy areas to directly link the operational production fields, hence have been built for the company's own purpose and not to facilitate the local population.
- Not a single water course was found.
- The money, therefore, has been spent for to develop and support the company's own operations. The company has made similar claims about employment: that over 42% permanent employees are from the same area while over 60% are from Sindh province. Once again, these are simply tall claims.
- Of total permanent employees (600), locals constitute only 4-5% (20 - 30)
- Even among contractual employees (1000), only 15% are locals (140 - 150)

In protest, the Badin Rural Development Society mobilized local communities for their rights, sensitized the District Government, linked the issue and raised it at international for a, and also shared information with local journalists and civil society organizations in order to publicize the negation of BP's false claims and eyewash. BRDS is also lobbying for a policy on petroleum exploration and production.

The last presentation, delivered by Farhan Anwar, dealt with the gaps in Pakistan's environmental laws and how various international instruments provided coverage for them. Farhan spoke specifically about the OECD Guidelines which are comprehensive and a blueprint for environmental legislation.

General Discussion

Rahat : Sharing her thoughts as an independent environment consultant who



has worked on CSR issues for some time, Rahat Anjum said companies have become very adept at "once-in-a-while activities to pay lip service to CSR" for which they produce a very good report



for publicity, and often use the name of an NGO to give it credibility. She said CSR practice *should* be something like this: companies need to develop the areas in which they are located through tangible outputs e.g. restore environments they have destroyed. She mentioned the Chesapeake Bay blue crab rehabilitation programme in the US, which was a good example of meaningful CSR.

Shahid: Sharing his experiences of reporting on the environment with journalists, senior correspondent of The News, Shahid Hussain said that the media had played a big role in creating awareness, and for this he gave the example of the Tasman Spirit (oil spill) case. But there had been no compensation in the case, for which he blamed the authorities for not presenting a strong case and pursuing it.

Shaheen: This kind of event, where we have access to information, is very useful. I suggest developing a network of reporters with whom such stories can be shared on a regular basis.

Farhan: MNCs have a larger impact (footprint). The concept of CSR is generally philanthropy - and companies get away with paying lip service. CSR has to be embedded in **core** functioning of an organization. What 'business' does an oil company have to build a school? We need to understand the functioning of companies - and what laws and rules apply to them. Deep-down, how are their organizational policies being made?

Sahar: MNCs would generally be more inclined, because of the impact this can have on their image internationally, and among shareholders because there are checks and balances in place in the countries where they are headquartered. **Launch of the Media Toolkit on CSR Thursday, August 20th, 2009, Beach Luxury Hotel**

Mrs. Amber Alibhai, General Secretary,



Shehri-CBE welcomed the participants and Farhan Anwar, Urban Planner & Member, Shehri-CBE and Sahar Ali, Media Consultant provided the participants an insight into the process of preparing the Toolkit – the need, objectives, methodology and outcome.

Shabina Faraz, Freelance Environmental Journalist who was part of the process of media engagement and consultation that went into the making of the Toolkit will shared her experiences, the benefits

such a document can hold for the media and also the key environmental challenges facing the country – seen from the eye of a journalist David Watson, Director, Seed Business Consulting shared his expertise and knowledge on the subject of CSR, its relevance and implementation in Pakistan – the challenges being faced and the opportunities on offer. Javed Jabbar Former Senator, Regional Councilor and Global Vice President, IUCN, discussed the key linkage

between corporate operations and the environment and on how the media and conservation/advocacy groups can play an effective role in influencing corporate compliance.

Sahar Ali summed up the discussion while Farhan Anwar gave the vote of thanks. □

Shehri Seminar - Karachi our City – Visioning for an Urban Revolution (Wednesday, August 19, 2009)

Karachi has gone from being a poor-friendly city to one keen to meet the demands of the market and global capital. If this trend continues, the rich-poor divide in the metropolis will grow, resulting in the further ghettoisation of the city and increasing instability. Renowned architect Arif Hasan said this while delivering the keynote address.

“The Karachi Strategic Development Plan 2020 (KSDP 2020) is based on the needs of the market economy and attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) as well as devolution and mega-projects. “said Mr. Hasan, as he discussed the various development plans prepared for Karachi - before and after partition - along with KSDP 2020, the current master plan.

“Devolution has been promoted to allow cities the freedom to borrow. The

planning paradigm has changed. It is fuelled by global capital,” he added. The senior planner observed that though public-private partnerships were gaining currency, “the public is completely subservient to the private”. He said that in 2005-06, banks had lent around \$1.5 billion for car loans; this money, he said, could have been used to build a massive number of proper housing units.

Arif Hasan termed this the “neo-liberal urban development paradigm”. He said the city’s planners wanted to build a “worldclass city; however, there was no clear definition of what a “worldclass city” was.

Symbols of this new order, he noted, were flyovers, high-rises and malls, termed “investment-friendly infrasture”. Arif Hasan said that “projects have replaced planning”, and added that global capital was very comfortable thriving in states like Pakistan, which had weak law enforcement.

“The repercussions of this are that the rich-poor divide will widen while there will be an increase in gated communities,

a removal of hawkers and the closing of multi-class public space. At the outset of his lecture, Mr. Hasan said that though Karachi was one of the better planned cities of the world- this would not be the case in five to six years.

He said that planning was fundamentally a political act determined on the basis of ideology or compromise between powerful interest groups. He termed the Karachi Master Plan 1975-1985 “a very comprehensive plan”. Supervised by the United Nations, it could not be implemented and was not given legal cover. As a result, the informal sector and mafias expanded.

Earlier, Shehri general-secretary Amber Alibhai delivered the welcome address. She said that as people’s opinion had not been honoured in the planning stage, litigation resulted over various projects and developments. “The city managers do not take the people’s right to know seriously. Why are citizens not taken on board during the decision making process?”



Urban planner and Shehri member Farhan Anwar, while defining the objectives of the seminar, said that Karachi was a very decentralised city, controlled by over 20 civic agencies. "Where does the common citizen stand in the whole process? Who is benefiting and who is losing out?" He said that though Karachi had seen several planning interventions before and after partition, the process failed because of an absence of continuity, absence of implementing and financing

mechanisms, lack of a political mandate and lack of stakeholder consultation.

Projects keep up "Projects keep popping up, but do they fit in logically according (to a plan)? They happen an over the place. Why are master plans never given legal sanction? Do we want to promote ad-hocism?" he asked. Mr. Anwar said policies and plans served special interest groups, targeted short-term gains and had a narrow focus rather than a holistic urban outlook. He also pointed out that

legislation specific to the needs of cities was required.

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Noman Ahmed, chairman of the NED's department of architecture and planning said that planning was a continuous process and that without a planning agency, proper development would be very difficult. He also observed that the city would continue to face difficulties until the issue of local bodies was settled. □

Book on 'Parks & Open Spaces in Karachi'

Shehri-CBE has been actively involved with issues related to the natural and built environment in the city over the past 20 years. We have frequently approached the courts to tackle zoning violations, illegal constructions, land-use conversions, etc. Gutter Baghicha, the largest and oldest open space in Karachi, is a case in point; Shehri has been in litigation for the past 15 years to save some 480 acres of park land in a poor section of town from being unlawfully converted into housing societies.

In our quest to save "open spaces, Shehri has undertaken a mammoth task of documenting all amenity plots in the city. These special plots are those that have been designated as parks, playgrounds, hospitals, schools, public buildings, etc in the master plan of the area. We have almost completed the process of collecting all the layout plans of the 18 towns of the city. This was no easy task as the plans are not

available in one place and many were in such a pathetic condition that it was difficult to even decipher the details. There is a very real possibility that some will disintegrate altogether.

We are adopting the following procedure:

- Scanning & converting to a CAD format
- Physical verification at site of each and every plot
- Nature and extent of encroachment (if any)
- Correlation with Google-Earth layout

This will be the first documentation of its kind in Karachi. Though maps of all areas exist but they are all scattered in various departments: for example, schemes that fall under KDA can be found at the Master Plan Group of Offices at CDGK, whereas the maps of the Old City areas, such as Saddar, Garden, Lyari, etc., are

housed elsewhere.

We plan to collate and publish the data and maps so that local communities in various areas of Karachi have access to information and relevant rules, and are in apposition to protect the remaining amenity spaces in their area.

This is a time-consuming exercise which has depleted the meager amount of resources we had allocated for this purpose. The task is monumental but can be done if finances were not such an issue.

Your company's commitment to CSR is well established. We request you to help us in our task as a documentation of open spaces would be the first step in preventing them from being lost to future generations. A rough estimate of the costs involved is attached.

All donations to Shehri are eligible to tax exemption u/s 2(36)(C) of Income Tax Ordinance 2001. □



SHEHRI ADVOCACY

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

Land grabbing in Karachi

Karachi has many land owners and all these land owners have a certain percentage of land under their jurisdiction. The usage of this land is specified i.e. in any given jurisdiction, land use is specified for residential, commercial, amenities i.e. (parks, schools, hospitals, places of worship) and industrial, e.g. SITE, KITE etc.

This ownership jurisdiction and usage of land is laid out in a master plan i.e. in the form of a notification and further a map which is the most important identification of that ownership and planned usage of the given land. Over the years encroachments are taking place in these very specific areas, but no land owning agency has upgraded its maps, which means the current maps do not represent the ground reality.

Shehri in its quest to document the open and amenity spaces of Karachi has for the past three years collected, documented the layout plans of the city in collaboration with NED University, Architecture Department. We have done this through maps, Google images and physical survey. The maps do not represent the ground reality in our project survey.

80 % of the maps do not show the area of the amenity space and its usage, they are just open plots of land, titled "amenity" which are then converted for other usage through land grabbing (eg. North Nazimabad Parks). The knowledge of their unprotected existence is available with vested interests. The inclusion of SUPARCO as a member in this committee would be extremely helpful, because they have the latest satellite imagery which would enable us to determine the jurisdiction, present position of available land in any given area and its land use which could be superimposed upon the old maps. The actual ground reality, would be further established through a physical survey of that encroachment which would expose who it has been done by and who is responsible for the same. The land grabbers and their patrons within the government would get a face. Shehri is available to help and assist in this effort. SUPARCO help would be invaluable to upgrade the maps of Karachi. We believe that transparency, freedom of information, leads to good governance.

Construction of Parking Plaza on amenity Lawn Plot ST-1, Block 7, Clifton

With reference to the ad in DAWN dated 22-4-2007 (Earth Day!) the following preliminary points are highlighted:

1. Plot-ST-1/7 Clifton (V2 acre) is a green-belt/lawn amenity plot, and cannot have commercial activities on it. Presently it has been illegally converted from "Lawn" to "Parking Lot". This must be reused.

Brazen Encroachments on Parks/Amenity Spaces in North Nazimabad

- 1) Plot ST-5/2/E (Park, 2.03 acres), ST-5/4/E (Playground, 2 acres), ST-5/1/E, (Hazoori Bagh, 1.35 acres)
- 2) Plot ST-4/D, (Bagh-e-Afroz, 3.5 acres)
- 3) Plot ST-1/1, (Bagh-e-Dilkusha, 2.75 acres)
- 4) Plot ST-9/A, Block-A, (Bagh-e-Babar)
- 5) Plot ST-5/K (Taj Mahal Bagh, 6 acres)

Why the deafening silence on our previous letter dated February 11, 2009 on the above subject?

Each one of you is sworn to uphold the law and safeguard the public interest. The following laws are being blatantly violated before your very eyes:

- *Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997* (incl. Reg. 4)
- *Sindh Local Government Ordinance, 2001* (incl. Regs. 67 - 70, Sixth Schedule)
- *Sindh Building Control Ordinance, 1979* (incl. Section 6.1)
- *Karachi Building & Town Planning Regulations, 2002* (incl. Reg. 18-4. 1)r

Such amenity plots cannot be allotted by CDGK for residential purposes, nor can building plans be approved by KBCA, nor can construction be undertaken without approval.

Attached are comparative satellite images, dated 2004 and 2009, which expose illegal construction on the above parks and playgrounds. This criminal activity is *being sponsored by the local UC and Town Nazims.

We once again ask you to have this '*daylight robbery stopped*' of spaces meant for public recreation and play. The matter is most urgent as construction is progressing rapidly. □



2. Similar "swallowing-up" of lawn/park amenity spaces, in the commercial areas around the Schon/KPT underpass, including ST-2, Block 5 (0.17ac), ST-4, Block 5 (0.30ac), ST-9, Block-8 (0.29ac), ST-11, Block 9 (0.14 ac) ST-7, Block 9), (see attached KDA sketch, Annexure-1) also need to be reversed.
3. How will the private investor earn money on this enterprise if there is no (unlawful) commercial activity on this amenity plot?
4. Many of the commercial buildings in this area are not providing accessible parking spaces in compliance with Regulation 24 of the *Karachi Building & Town Planning Regulations 2002*. This problem should be tackled on a war-footing and the parking spaces restored to address the issue.
5. The construction of a multistoried car-park will obstruct view of all the commercial shops (BC-1 to BC-11) around the amenity lawn, and will be fiercely contested by the shopkeepers.
6. The establishment of an affordable/convenient public transport system (CNG buses, BRT, KCR) will reduce the number of cars, decrease parking requirements, diminish traffic congestion and air/noise pollution, and save energy/fuel. The CDGK must take this up as a No. 1 priority.

**Encroachment in Chinna Ground
Kashmir Road, PECHS / Muslimabad by
CDGK**

The famous Chinna Ground, an amenity space separating Muslimabad and PECHS* Block-II is being encroached by the CDGK. They have divided up the park, carved a marriage hall (who makes rental money ??), Office of the Malaysian company IJM (of Sharah-Faisal Flyover Contractors) and a concrete mixing plant for the Shaheed-e-Millat, Shahrah-e-Quaideen flyovers and underpass. Now the latest information is that plotting will be done for housing.

This needs to be investigated as it is recorded in the Provincial Assembly when the predecessor to Syed Qaim Ali Shah, gave an undertaking that Chinna Ground

would not be converted or used except for a park.

Illegal conversion of KBCA-approved parking spaces

Plot 71 /GK-7, Ohulam Hussain Quarter Residents of the building have been complaining to KBCA for the past six months about the takeover and conversion of the KBCA-approved parking spaces in the above building.

Such unlawful conversions increase the lack of adequate parking spaces in congested parts of the city, and add to the crippling traffic jams and road chaos that the present city administration is trying to fight. The loss to Karachi is beyond measure.

Please have the parking area encroachment demolished under law and have the parking spaces restored to the beneficial use of the building residents.

**Tuwaigri Steel Mills Limited
Comments on EIA Report**

Our comments on the report and EIA process are as follows:

1. The major machinery of the TSML DRI plant is already at site and most of the equipment is already installed. Therefore this EIA hearing is a fig leaf to cover the naked contempt of the project sponsors for the Pakistan environmental laws. This brazen disdain also highlights the impotence of the concerned government agencies to enforce the law. **What use of this EIA report / hearing at this stage?**
2. Using natural gas as the reductant, the MIDREX® Direct Reduction Process was developed by Midrex Technologies, Inc., a wholly owned U.S. subsidiary of Kobe Steel. Since the reduction process consumes prodigious amounts of natural gas, it is economically viable only where natural gas is abundant and relatively cheap (such as in Trinidad & Tobago). Pakistan is facing a severe gas shortage and will have to import gas soon to meet basic requirements. **This project is totally unsuited for Pakistan.** (India does have a number of Direct Reduction Process plants but those are coal based).

3. The requirements of *PEPA (Review of IEE & EIA) Regulations 2000* mandate as follows:

- Under section 6, a **preliminary scrutiny must be undertaken by EPA before the EIA is putout to public examination.** Has this been done?
- Under section 12(2), the DG shall constitute a "Committee of Experts" to review the EIA. At least 50% of the members should be from the private sector.
- 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 w/s 10(5)) is to be prepared by EPA.

4. The detailed composition of and temperatures of the **discharges** from the mill effluent treatment system and the power-plant open circuit cooling system using seawater have not been given. **Do they comply with NEQS 2000?** Additionally, the cooling-water intake structures will kill fish and fragile marine life through entrainment and impingement.

5. As per Note-6 of *NEQS 2000* for liquid effluents into the sea (from sewerage treatment or power-plant cooling), the discharge need to be at least 10 miles from shore, from mangroves, and from important estuaries (like the Korangi/Phitti Creek). Consequently, a **discharge pipe has to be taken 10 miles out to sea, with a properly-designed environmentally-friendly 'marine outfall'.** Details of this have not been provided.

We repeat that this EIA process is a total waste of time, and makes a mockery of the law. We shall not be attending this impotent hearing tomorrow. □

URBAN PLANNING

Densifying Karachi: Charting a way ahead?

Shehri highlights the recommendations put forward by a Committee composed of renowned architects of Pakistan that proposes a frame work for densifying Karachi in some specific high density zones.

The Karachi Building Control Authority, initiated a special program aimed at reviewing the existing conditions of real estate development in Karachi, with a view to the enhancement of development opportunities that would encourage and facilitate greater investment and participation in a healthy growth of the construction activity of the city, and which would be fruitful for all its stakeholders. The KBCA invited a group of Karachi's prominent architects to form a Committee that would assist and guide the Authority towards achieving these noble ends.

Appointment of the Committee
The Authority formally appointed this committee vide letter# KBCA/DC(Admn-P-1)/2008/783 dated September 3, 2008.

Terms of Reference of the Committee
This Committee was tasked with a review of the existing bye-laws as they relate to higher Floor Area Ratios and density, with the intention that new Areas of Opportunity be enacted which encourage building development in Karachi. Detailed Terms of Reference for the Committee were enumerated in the 1st Report. Briefly, these are:

- Take cognizance of: Karachi's new Master plan (2020), existing Urban Infrastructure, existing Human safety laws, existing high-density Bye-laws.



- Review the need to have Urban design consultancies carried out to help in the creation of these Areas of Opportunity.
- Coordinate and understand viewpoints of other stakeholders.
- Review existing Karachi Building & Town Planning Regulations
- Recommend revision of existing bye-laws
- Draft new bye-laws
- Recommend strategies for further enforcement of laws.
- Suggest strategies for Design review of such high-density projects.
- Appoint sub-Committee's to execute detailed actions on various matters as above.
- Recommend to the KBCA the engagement of professional expertise as it deems necessary for:
- The acquisition of information or data relevant to its deliberations.
- The preparation of detailed documentation and strategies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Having carefully considered the various presentations, recommendations and suggestions of the experts, the Committee came to the conclusion that to stop further malaise and move Karachi's development forward it is important to immediately take the following steps:

1. Create a supra Planning and Development Authority:

To coordinate, control and more importantly direct the planning and development of Karachi, the



committee feels such a central Authority is a necessity; through which all City infrastructure agencies, Provincial and Federal government authorities, Cantonment boards are directed towards planning and development issues.

As has been noted earlier in this report, many plans and schemes have been prepared by many well-intentioned and competent persons in the past. But there has been a marked lack of success in the implementation of almost all such intents. Lack of political will, lack of authority, lack of coordination, lack of public involvement, lack of adequate good intent, *et al*, have all contributed towards this sorry state of affairs.

In this context, Mr Farhan Anwar, Urban Planner, is quoted:

- the presence of multifarious institutions with overlapping functions and boundaries in the metropolitan area of Karachi is a significant reason for the inadequate level and poor quality of services provided in the city. The fact that fourteen (14) government organizations and agencies (*Federal, Provincial and Local*) have control over land in Karachi indicates the nature of the problem.



There is a need to establish a supra *Planning & Physical Development Agency* that has the authority to cut across this divide by getting all the various land owning agencies and service providers to sit across the table and plan for the city in a harmonious manner, collectively and not in a disjointed manner as is the case at present. An institutional and physical space should be created for an interaction between politicians, government planners and bureaucrats and the people (*formal and informal interest groups and service providers*). The *Agency* than has to be vested with the powers to not only plan, based on sound research, data generation and analysis but also to supervise the financing and implementation of the planning recommendations. For this *Agency* to succeed it has to act with independence and authority and requires *political ring fencing* in terms of its access to financing, decision making and powers of implementation.

The main functions of the *Planning & Physical Development Agency* would include:

- Research and documentation of data indicators/trends
- Analysis of data
- Information sharing and consultation with civil society stakeholders
- Strategizing/planning and recommending
- Supervising the financing, implementation and monitoring

The *Agency* should also provide a forum for facilitating and promoting models of public-private partnerships to stimulate growth and manage the process with participation of the relevant stakeholders.”

The Committee feels that such an Authority/Institutions must be created immediately; and for it to succeed must have independence.

2. High Density Zones:

After deliberation and listening to viewpoints of Planners, Citizen groups, professionals etc.; it was the view that the development of high-density zones within the city of Karachi’s existing fabric is a good idea.

For it will help in developing a central city core, revitalize traditional city centers and historic districts, and once again bring places of work, living, entertainment and commerce together into one zone.

Creation of such a district, can only happen by following a process of Urban Analysis/Design which will require the following steps to be taken;

- a. Carry out an Urban Design consultancy.
- b. Physically implement infrastructure recommendations of the consultancy.
- c. Develop new bye-laws based on the consultancy recommendations.
- d. Seek public opinion on the recommendations.

After properly going through this process, the designated areas can be declared as High-Density Zones.

In this regard we would like to share some observations noted by us during the presentations made on the subject

HIGH DENSITY DEVELOPMENT

History

The penchant of cities to de-congest the traditional and historic centres, and encourage the horizontal development of growth, was a philosophy given great impetus in the

post-Second World War years, especially in the United States. The explosion of the greatest road transportation network ever, the American freeways and highway system, mobilized the average American, and saw the establishment of “Suburbia North America”. Since roads got better and cars got cheaper, more and more citizens moved out of the city and into the suburbs, where more land and larger homes became affordable. These suburbs eventually grew into cities themselves, with their own municipal and administrative structures. However, since business establishments remained in the traditional “downtown” cores, the residents of the suburbs saw the birth of a new negative factor that reared its head – **commuting**. While those economies came up with many solutions to provide for this need by the development of efficient train and highways systems, the cost in terms of money and time has been felt quite acutely over the years. In the context of developed societies, more importantly, the exodus of people from the city centres resulted in the creation of urban wastelands, with lowering of quality of the built environment and the rise of crime and

other issues of residual urban pockets. These policies also saw the advent of the new phenomenon – **Urban Sprawl**. Cities tending towards more suburban development resulted in huge metropolitan masses, such as Los Angeles.

Having seen the effects of decentralization, more and more cities in North America and Europe, especially in the eighties and nineties, have been encouraging citizens to come

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back to live in the cities. Urban revitalization projects have been given great emphasis.



In developing societies, these earlier policies were also followed. The Karachi Master Plan 1973 also recommends the de-congestion of the city core and the creation of new centres, away from the traditional "downtown" – poly-centric development. Since many cities in these countries followed this wisdom, urban sprawl became quite the third world malaise too. But these cities, because of mis-governance and resource constraints, could not manage this horizontal growth adequately. Hence, the conveyance of infrastructure and basic utilities stretched their meager means to the point where these are on the verge of collapse, and have been surviving on "band-aid" applications.

It has now become recognized among planners and architects, that high-density urban centres are the preferable way forward. The greatest advantage of this strategy is the relatively lower cost and task to provide infrastructural reticulation.

The advantages and disadvantages are illustrated here:

Low Density, Horizontal Spread
Horizontal spread of utilities. More energy, labour and material Greater distances to travel. Heavier load on Public Transport Services Resultant dependence on private cars, with heavier national fuel bill Resultant greater carbon emissions, harmful to the environment

Dilution of importance of traditional city centres

Traditional structure to the habitat lost

Urban orientation, historic landmarks cease to be binding factors to urban fabric

Deterioration of city centre neighbourhoods, resulting in urban

slums, and high crime

Birth of "ghost towns"

Lowering of property values, decline in economy

High Density, Concentrated Development

Reduced cost of infrastructure reticulation

More efficient public transport, reduced dependence on private transport Lesser contribution to Global Warming

Revitalization of traditional City Centres and historic districts

Enhanced sense of "belonging" and ownership of the city

It cannot be over-emphasized that, in order to ensure a healthy development and successful re-birth of Karachi as a "World class City", the Planning & Physical Development Agency suggested here, inclusive of its Oversight Committee, is constituted as soon as possible. Precedents in the Sindh Building Control Ordinance 1979 may be investigated for legal status and procedures.

Revival of sense of orientation and membership of the urban "family" Chronological continuity, as old neighborhoods are reborn, linked to the past

All above assets tantamount to recycling and re-invigorating the mega polis instead of the throwaway, disposable approach of polycentric development.

Creation of an oversight Committee:
In a divided and conflict driven space, where a trust deficit exists between the citizens and the service providers, it is all the more important that mechanisms be put in place that ensure transparency in functions of government agencies and strengthen the inclusive nature and public legitimacy of decision making processes. We suggest creation of an oversight committee, which has representations from the following organizations;

- Pakistan Council of Architects and Town Planners.
- Pakistan Engineering Council
- Institute of Architects

- Association of Builders and Developers.
- Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Representatives of Citizen Bodies/Academics

It is proposed that within the structural and institutional framework of the *Planning & Physical Development Agency* an *Oversight Committee* be formed that acts as an external monitoring and citizens representative body providing civil society input and linking up with the *Agency* in a consultative, advisory and monitoring mode. The *Terms of Reference* of the *Oversight Committee* would have to be drafted to suit its mandate while its composition would ensure its representative nature of the wider citizen and stakeholder profile and ensure that it has a meaningful role to play in terms of its capacity to effectively influence the decision making processes. The representation may come from academics, architects, engineering and planning bodies, legal experts, business, commerce and trade bodies, intellectuals etc. The *Committee* can act as an *interface* between the *Agency* and the citizens.

It cannot be over-emphasized that, in order to ensure a healthy development and successful re-birth of Karachi as a "World class City", the Planning & Physical Development Agency suggested here, inclusive of its Oversight Committee, is constituted as soon as possible. Precedents in the Sindh Building Control Ordinance 1979 may be investigated for legal status and procedures.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, it is the opinion of this Committee that, for the reinvigoration of Karachi, a new vision and direction must be brought in: where, after due consideration, a revitalized City center emerges, which is dense and vibrant, where people of all walks of life can coexist in harmony; and which acts as a catalyst for development in Karachi. □



CONSERVATION

GIS mapping of Karachi coast and strategizing for climate change adaptation

Shehri launches an exciting project of mapping of Karachi coast using the GIS technology with a particular focus on the turtle habitat at the Hawksbay / Sandspit beach eco-system. The project also includes an assessment into the possible impacts of climate change on the turtle habitat.

The project area is spread over a stretch of about 70 km (from Rehri Goth, Korangi to Cape Mounze) which is part of the Sindh coast. The area between Cape Mounze and Korangi is characterized by wide surf zones, cliff beaches, sea arch, sea notch and river silt. The vegetation along the Sindh coast is dominated by mangrove forests. Again eight species have been documented with *avicennia marina* being the most abundant. Environmentally sensitive eco-systems in the project area include the Korangi Creek system, the Green Turtle habitat at the Hawksbay/Sandspit beaches.

In the Sandspit/Hawksbay area, the permanent human settlement exists in the form of the Kakapir coastal fishing village. Population, in excess of 1000, is 95% ethnic Sindhi with some clusters of Baloch and Seraiki speaking communities. Almost 90% of the households are dependent on fishing and related activities. Women are mostly involved in household chores, child rearing, livestock management and fuel and fodder collection. Visitors to the beach huts represent non-permanent classification of human settlement.

The project is focused in general on the GIS based documentation of the Karachi coast for facilitating future policy making, planning and conservation. However, indirectly the implementation of project recommendations would benefit:

The sensitive ecology along the Karachi coast: through scientific documentation of the eco-systems that can help in identifying pollution threats, document present status and assist in establishing trends in urban development and impact on the coastal ecology.

The local community: the local fishing community can benefit tremendously as

recognition of the ecological importance of the project area can lead to proper conservation measures and possibly controlled recreational and tourism activities in the area.



The land owning agencies: the land owning agencies by recognizing the ecological importance of the project area and by initiating habitat management measures can gain global recognition for developing and implementing a pioneering and innovative conservation plans.

The public at large: the general public would benefit by having environment friendly development and clean beaches in addition to enjoying controlled access to a globally recognized ecological sites

A threatened coastal habitat

The coastal ecology is threatened from land based activities. However, updated and scientifically acquired data and updated information does not exist that is crucial in developing the appropriate policies, plans and conservation measures that can contribute to the sustained protection of the coastal habitat. This projects aims to contribute in filling this information gap through digitized GIS based mapping. While general mapping of the whole project area - Rehri Goth to Cape Mounze - (that includes identification of the

species/habitat based on the available data) would be carried out through acquisition of satellite imagery processing and incorporation of available data on the GIS map an extensive data collection and mapping exercise will be carried out in the Sandspit/Hawksbay area..

Due to various human activities, the Sandspit/Hawksbay habitat is severely threatened. Beach front development is presently in the form of beach huts where land use violations have been observed and a number of huts exceed the limits of legally allowed land usage. Consequently, space for turtle nesting is severely restricted. In addition, more extensive development activities are being proposed for the area. The beaches often contain large amounts of litter. Consumption may interfere in metabolism/gut function, and cause absorption of toxic by-products. Garbage also attracts predators like dogs, crows/gulls that then pose a direct threat to the turtle eggs/hatchlings.

Construction debris on the beaches from newly constructed/unused huts can alter the sand characteristics, deter nesting attempts and interfere with the incubation of eggs/ emergence of hatchlings. Sand excavated during the process also damages the beach/sand habitat. All these activities may cause irreversible damage to the turtle nesting habitat if urgent corrective measures are not taken.

Towards conserving the habitat

The proposed project would address all these issues through the use of an emergent technology that has revolutionized sea turtle research. Geographic Information System (GIS) provides a tool with the potential to perform powerful spatial data analyses for long term monitoring of wildlife habitats including sea turtle nesting sites



The project would use the GIS technology for mapping, processing and incorporation of available data for the whole project area while it would undertake base map preparation, retrieval and storage of field data and visualizing interactions between sea turtle nests and the physical/ environmental attributes at the Sandspit/Hawksbay beaches. The successful/unsuccessful nesting sites will be marked and related with data on mean sand depth, beach access (obstructions to nesting access such as huts) and potential predation sources.

This would help in analyzing and identifying causes and locations of hindrances to turtle nesting and consequently describing habitats suitable for turtle nesting in addition to determining scientifically the High Tidal Zone. The product output would establish the scientific basis for properly describing project area's nesting habitats, monitoring changes over time, their impact on the nesting habitats and modeling geographic processes inferred from predicted changes, for implementing strategic management. It would also deter and make it difficult for non-environment friendly beach development activities in the future to be planned and implemented.

Project Outcomes

The following project outcomes are indicated:

- General mapping of the Karachi coast from Rehri Goth, Korangi Creek to Cape Mounze – (identification of species and habitats)
- A major project output would be the identification and analysis of causes and locations of hindrances to turtle nesting and consequently identification of habitats suitable for turtle nesting.
- Based on the findings/ recommendations of the GIS Mapping, the design of a comprehensive lobbying/awareness raising campaign aimed at creating the legislative and institutional space for implementation.

1. Implementing Strategy

The project can basically be divided in

two components:

- The setting up of the GIS Data base/map by making combined use of hardware, software, skills and spatial data with provisions of analysis of spatial attributes and geographic modeling to recommend habitat conservation measures
- Based on the GIS findings/ recommendations, the design/conduct of a comprehensive lobbying/awareness raising campaign aimed at creating the legislative and institutional space for implementation and finalizing recommendations

1. GIS mapping and analysis

In this component that would mark the initiation of the project, the work would be divided and prioritized as follows:

Literature review: the relevant reports, studies, government laws, rules, legislations etc. would be thoroughly researched and analyzed to assist in the development of the working methodology and strategizing for the data collection/generation and GIS mapping process

Data collection/generation: in this phase of the project, primary (Turtle habitat) and secondary data (general project area – Rehri Goth to Cape Mounze) will be collected and generated on field. All the available data on turtle nesting patterns/numbers/sites would be collected while GPS based data will be generated on recent nesting sites (nesting season during project duration), mean sand depth (a profile for the whole beach will be developed through readings taken and manual measurements made at selected points). Potential predation sources would also be identified in addition to sites where construction debris is encountered. Recent satellite imagery of high resolution for the project area will be procured in addition to developing maps/photographs, geo-referenced images etc.

GIS Map preparation and analysis: All the data collected/generated to form part of the GIS Mapping exercise. The nesting site data (unsuccessful/ successful nesting) when associated for its interaction with the selected data sets

representing the physical/environmental attributes of the project area and incorporated as part of GIS mapping would help in identification and analysis of causes and locations of hindrances to turtle nesting (e.g. inappropriate sand depth/characteristics, obstruction to beach access – beach huts, predation sources) and consequently in identification of habitats suitable for turtle nesting. Through gathering of relevant field data such as spot elevations, the High Tidal Zone for the project area would be determined that is a highly critical data when considered within the context of coastal planning and development.

2. Design/conduct of a comprehensive lobbying/ awareness raising campaign

Based on the GIS findings/ recommendation (Interim Report) a comprehensive lobbying/awareness raising campaign aimed at creating the legislative and institutional space for implementation and to finalize recommendations would be designed and conducted. The mode of the campaign would stakeholder engagement through holding Focus Group Discussions/Seminars/ Technical Workshops, Lectures etc.

The GIS Map will serve long term purposes and resource as it can be used as a planning and conservation tool for organizations like the Sindh Wildlife Department and WWF Pakistan on a continuous basis for updating, storage and retrieval of data and modeling different planning and management scenarios. This will ensure the long term success and sustainability of the project. Even within the project, the preparation of the tool is linked with a campaign to raise awareness, lobby for political, administrative support for implementation and build public pressure for the acceptance of the project recommendations that would have a wide level of stakeholder input.

This strategy would lay the foundation of a concerted and continuous effort spearheaded by the civil society for protection of the Karachi coast. □

INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

Capacity building of the police

Shehri updates its readers on the status of its project on police reforms

Goals for the third quarter (January – March 2009)

Following were the project goals for the third quarter:

Component I

- Training on Module II to Sindh police in Hyderabad
- Training on Module II in Karachi

Component II

- Focus Group discussion with Parliamentarians
- Focus Group discussion with media
- Publishing of advertisement calling for police reforms in English and Urdu national papers

Activities during the reporting period

Component I

Training on training module II at Hyderabad took place on Jan 24th-25th 2009. The training module II titled “**Understanding the religious dimensions of human rights and enhancing interpersonal communication and conflict resolution skills**”.

During conflict resolution, the process that may help includes (a) setting the scene (b) gathering information (c) agreeing that there is a problem (d) Brainstorming possible solutions (e) negotiating a solution. During the training workshop, the dos and don't of mediation were also shared with the participants. In addition to trainers, the workshop had two resource persons namely Professor Sanaullah Baloch who is the Dean of Islamic Culture at the Sindh University at Jamshoro and Mr. Peter Jacob of the Minority Rights Commission. Professor Baloch spoke about the Cairo Declaration and human

rights in terms of police's role. Mr. Peter Jacob threw light upon the Christian perspective of Human Rights the inputs were followed by a plenary discussion.

Training workshop on Training Module II at Karachi on March 5th-6th 2009

The objectives of the training module II at Karachi were the same as that at Hyderabad. However, this training was conducted by only one trainer Gulmina Bilal. The same content and methodology was followed. At Karachi, the resource persons were Father Pascal who is the Academic Dean at the National Catholic Institute of Theology, Karachi and Justice (Retd) Shaffi Muhammadi. As an addition to the methodology followed at Hyderabad, at Karachi role plays were also conducted. To understand conflict resolution in terms of police work, role plays were done. The police were asked as to what kind of conflict they usually experience. Three groups were formed to reflect and develop a role play on the most common conflict chosen. The groups came up with the following common conflicts: Results of group one:

- Conflict is created in case illegal orders by the superior police officers are given;
- Political victimizations;
- Financial gains;
- Personal enmities', if resist, after effects.
- Of charge attitude, political, departmental, judiciary, physical abuse.

Results of group two:

- Conflict in the department due to departmental jealousy and causing harm to each others.
- Conflict due to intervention of political groups and illegal



interference;

- Illegal transfers, illegal pressure;
- False and bogus information communication to higher police officers against their opponents for causing them harm;
- Conflict due to baseless publication of news items by journalists against police officers for corruption purposes.

Results of group three:

- Conflict is created in case illegal ord
- During duty performance, political pressure, interference of Bureaucracy for getting undue advantages under pressure.
- Interference of press Media;
- Due to heavy load of working pressures and being mentally upset.
- Conflict created due to non-cooperation attitude of citizens and general public when they do not cooperate and unnecessarily pressurize the police officers on their duties for compliance of false orders.
- Due to difficulties during police duties arrangements for transport, food and unlimited timings.
- Conduct and attitude/behavior of higher police officers with the subordinate staff of the department.
- Noncooperation of the courts Judges and staff with police officers and employees.
- Health, salaries and household problems also create conflicts of different nature at different occasions.



- Sometimes the political leaders and workers wanted to register false criminal cases against their opponents and in case they are refused, then they try for transfers of police officers to far-away places.
- It has been observed that higher police officers i.e., TPO, DIGP award major punishments like discharge, dismissal, reduction in rank on receipt of a simple false application, without enquiry or verification.

The groups then performed role plays on one of the identified conflicts.

Role play by group one

SSP directed to SHO to arrest a religious leader, Khatib. SHO detailed Investigating Officer along with Lady Inspector, Khatib was known to these police officers with good terms, and they asked him to go underground. However for compliance of above orders, they brought one lady with them at the police station from the house of Khatib and briefed the situation.

Role play by group two

SHO gave orders to his subordinate to bring out accused from police lock-up, make such entry in REGISTER NO:2 (ROZNAMCHA), for interrogation. The police officer took him to Investigation Wing and enroute the accused ran away. SHO came back after meeting with DSP and heard this news. Upon this SHO was suspended and reverted whereas a FIR is also registered, produced in court from where he was released on bail. Role play by group three The owner of the house has beaten lady who is living on rent in his house. On receipt of complaint, SHO detailed a police mobile party and directed to call and produce him forcibly. Thereafter some high official person telephoned to SHO to allow the owner of house and do not take any action against him. Then SHO directed the mobile patrolling party to go in the jurisdiction for patrolling purpose. Upon this SHO informed the lady living on

rent that it is a matter of civil nature and she should approach Civil Court for redressal of her grievances. Further advised her that she should go to some NGO or political leader (Politician) for the needful because he could not help him.

Component II

Two focus group discussions were conducted separately with parliamentarians and another with media. Focus group with the former was on Jan 22nd 2009 and with the latter on Jan 23rd 2009 at Karachi. Senior media personnel and parliamentarians participated in the respective focus group discussions.

Focus group discussions with parliamentarians and media revealed



that both groups believe that the working of our police leaves much to be desired. This has been felt for a long time. However, it was only in 2002 that an attempt was made to reform the force. But even before the Police Order 2002 could be implemented amendments began to be introduced to dilute its effectiveness. In its present form, the order does not reflect the spirit of reform. The basic drawback to efficient police performance, apart from factors such as lack of training and equipment as well as corruption, is political interference. It is routine for the executive branch of Government to exploit the powers of the police to promote the narrow interests of rulers.

As a result, Pakistan's police are hardly a professional body. It acts as yet another centre of political power. The Police

Order 2002 had sought to correct this aberration by introducing two bodies; the Public Safety Commission and the Police Complaints Authority, both at different tiers. By providing for the appointment of members who are independent and hold diverse political opinions to these bodies and empowering them to oversee the working of the police force and look into public complaints, the order sought to bring the law enforcers

under the watch of an independent monitor to weaken the Government's capacity to interfere. But what do we have today?. Ineffective safety commissions, if they exist, and Complaints authorities merging with Safety Commissions so that the latter have ceased to function as forums for the redress of public grievances.-The powers of the Safety Commissions in matters of appointments, transfers and promotions are all key tools in manipulating the police. The immediate need of the hour is to have the amendments to the Police Order 2002 revoked so that reforms can be implemented in their true spirit.-It needs to be recognized that the failure of the police to act professionally and efficiently not only affects the level of security in the country, it also has an adverse impact on the working of the judicial system.

Publishing of Advertisement

During the reporting period, the public service Advertisement that was designed and developed from the focus group and consultations with various stakeholders was printed in a leading English 1 and Urdu2 newspaper. The Sunday editions were chosen of both the papers because of the wide circulation of these papers on Sundays. The advertisements were printed on January 4th 2009. The advertisements both in English and Urdu have already been shared in the previous quarter report. □



Ibex deaths expose wildlife dept's shortcomings

Daily DAWN Oct. 16, 2009

The outbreak of a deadly disease in the Khirthar National Park which is killing the highly rare Sindh ibex, (mountain goats) has exposed the shortcomings of the Sindh wildlife department including the lack of professional medical facilities.

According to sources, the department which is responsible for the welfare of wildlife does not even have a veterinarian to examine and treat the animals or an operation theatre and a laboratory where surgeries, autopsies and tests may be carried out.

Sindh Assembly historic documents become toilet paper?

Daily Times Oct. 15, 2009

The administration of the Sindh Assembly has carelessly thrown away important records of the assembly proceedings and historical documents outside the building and kept some of them in the washrooms of the premises.

The record contains the details of the last 12 assembly sessions and also the most important evidence of the British era that includes the 'power documents' that last Governor General of India Lord Mountbatten has presented to Muhammad Ali Jinnah that confirmed the transfer of powers from British regime to the leadership of independent Muslim state, Pakistan.

Child Rights Desk set up after 15 years

Daily Times Oct. 27, 2009

The Child Rights Desk, which was included in the notification of Women police station, has taken a practical form after 15 years. Following its establishment, the desk had received three cases, all of which have been successfully resolved. In 1994, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto had established a police station for women with an all-women staff. The notification of the station had mentioned a desk for dealing with child abuse cases of children 12 years old and under, but the desk could not be set up for 15 years.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

SHEHRI invites the residents of the city to share with us, their concerns, on issues which are adversely affecting their neighbourhood's environment. Please write to us, preferably with a supporting photograph, so that efforts are made and solutions sought - Ed.

Unauthorized / Dangerous Construction

We are residents in Aibeer Place, a building Consisting of three storeys of flats. This building is located in the vicinity opposite to Old Sabzi Mandi and was built about twenty years ago. The postal address of the plot is CU - 1, Chandni Chowk, Karachi. The owner of the plot or some body else has started constructing few more floors on top of existing third floor and "after pressurizing the residents of the flats, these people have secured signatures of the residents to build the extension. When they were asked to produce approved documents for extension, they were not able to show any approval from KBCA.

Sir, this building is fully occupied by low income people for the last twenty years. Now if any further storeys are constructed without proper design and approval from KBCA, this building may collapse and the poor residents will have no place to *live*. We therefore request you to take proper notice of it and get this construction activity stopped ate the earliest. □

Thanking you,

Your faithfully,

RESIDENTS OF AIBEER PALACE CU - 1,
CHANDNI CHOWK OPP: OLD SABZI MANDI, KARACHI

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

A media toolkit on CSR: the first word

Sahar Ali documents the process that went into the making of the Media Toolkit and highlights the areas and topics covered in the Toolkit

When we embarked on this task – of producing a toolkit for the media on Corporate Social Responsibility – we discovered at the outset that we were breaking new ground. There was no precedent of such a publication or resource, and this made our task even more difficult – and significant.

This toolkit, therefore, is quite literally ‘the first word’ on an information resource for media on CSR. The mistakes and omissions, therefore, will likely be many, and we’d like to apologise at the very outset for them. Being the first of, we hope, many other such attempts to collate useful information on CSR, the contents of this toolkit are not definitive; they are an introduction – a primer of sorts – to the concept, principles and practice of CSR as it relates to environmental considerations in Pakistan.

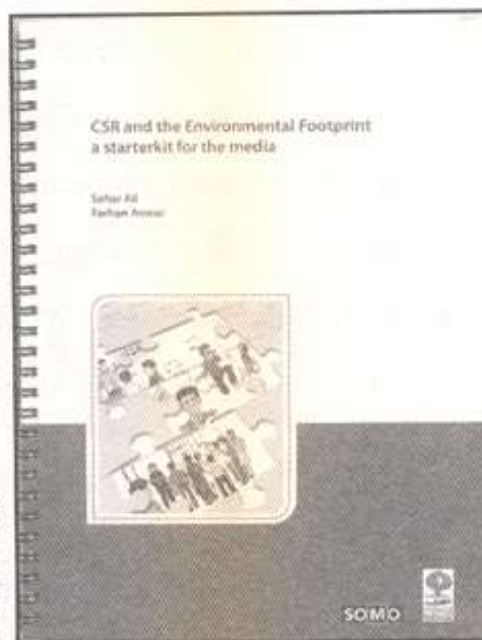
As a journalist, I had the privilege of witnessing the ‘wonder years’ of environmental journalism in Pakistan. What began with a handful of dedicated beyond-the-call-of-duty investigative journalists in the mid-80s had, by the early 90s, developed into a media mission to ensure that not just the poor, but future generations as well, do indeed “inherit the Earth”.

Pakistan’s environment movement stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the global concern for our natural and built environments; in making them cleaner, healthier and better places for all of the planet’s “creatures great and small” to inhabit collectively.

Twenty years on, I’m delighted to see that environment reporting has been mainstreamed in the Pakistani media, and through the media’s awareness-raising, in Pakistani society.

The concept of corporate social

responsibility seeks to spur this awareness into action at the level of institutions of society, to embed into the everyday practices of organizations, companies, factories, and industries a sense of responsibility towards the social environment in which they exist, locally, nationally and globally.



The role of the media is bringing about this transition in thinking and practice – in essence, a paradigm shift or change of behaviour – is a very important one. Media, especially the newly emerging private broadcast media in the country, reaches the ears, eyes – and through these faculties, the hearts and minds – of an overwhelming majority of Pakistanis.

It also makes the movers and shakers – those whom Pakistanis have assigned the task of governance, or law-making, or justice – take note of transgressions against society by individuals or institutions among us, and also to keep their own houses in order.

It is this watchdog role of media – which

contributes to the critical task of accountability of institutions of state, government, business, industry, and society – that this toolkit is aimed at supporting.

There is much more to learn and know about CSR. This toolkit explains, in as simple terms as possible, the concept of CSR and how it is defined by various actors and stakeholders. It provides a basic understanding of what this principle means in practice for business and industry, particularly in terms of the environment (Section 1).

we have attempted to provide a list and summaries of the key legislations – international and national – that protect natural and built environments and the living beings that inhabit them.

3 is a compilation of instructive cases of judicial, individual, collective and media activism which has challenged transgressions by business and industry in contravention of the laws of the land, and in so doing endangered lives and damaged the environment.

Section 4, is a distillation of all the information and learning in the preceding sections, and of the knowledge and experience of the many sources that have been tapped, directly and indirectly, for the preparation of this toolkit. This has been translated into tips for the media on how it may report on CSR as it relates to the environment.

The last section is a compilation of resources – names and contact details of individuals and organizations that can be tapped for further information; lists of publications and website addresses where more information may be found, as well as a comprehensive listing of Pakistan’s environmental legislation.

We have tried to make this toolkit easy to understand and use. We invite you to



critique it, and to share with us your experiences of using it to aid you in your work, so that we may learn from our mistakes and omissions and improve ours – and others’ – future attempts to develop resources for the media on CSR.

In the end, we’d like to urge you to share this toolkit with your colleagues so that other journalists and reporters may also benefit. This we ask because social responsibility isn’t just for the corporate sector. We all co-habit the earth, and while corporations may carry a greater responsibility in view of the benefits they reap from the planet, we are all duty-bound to exhibit a sense of responsibility towards society in protecting, preserving and improving our environment.

This we owe to the generations that will follow. So, in sharing this awareness and knowledge of CSR, we hope that we may, in the words of Javed Jabbar, inculcate among journalists and in Pakistanis at large a shared sense of “national social responsibility”. □

*- Sahar Ali is
Country Representative,
Panos Pakistan and co-author
of the Media Toolkit*



The world of CSR...

Corporate social responsibility is a concept with a growing currency around the globe. CSR is a concept that frequently overlaps with similar approaches such as corporate sustainability, corporate sustainable development, corporate responsibility, and corporate citizenship and as such does not have a standard definition or a fully recognized set of specific criteria. While CSR does not have a universal definition, many see it as the private sector’s way of integrating the economic, social, and environmental imperatives of their activities while at the same time addressing shareholder expectations. While business compliance with laws and regulations on social, environmental and economic objectives set the official level of CSR performance, CSR is often understood as involving the private sector commitments and activities that extend beyond this foundation of compliance with laws. CSR may also include within its scope a company’s responsibility for rectifying the consequences of its misbehavior, for example by cleaning up the pollution it caused or paying damages to those who suffered from their irresponsible business conduct. There is increasing focus on both the private and public sectors to be proactive in the area of CSR that are being challenged from consumers, shareholders, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and other stakeholders. Stakeholders challenge corporations to adopt socially responsible business practices - at both the domestic and international levels. Challenges and demands usually focus on one or more elements of CSR such as environmental protection, health and safety, corporate governance, human resource management practices, human rights, community development and consumer protection.

This Toolkit is an effort to build capacity within a key sector of civil society – the media, on the definitions, practices and challenges of CSR, with a focus on the environment sector and within the context of Pakistan. It is expected that this effort will contribute to a better understanding of the concept and practice of CSR, better reporting and improved investigative work on related matters – and ultimately towards ensuring a better environment for the people at large. □



SHEHRI ACTIVITIES

Most residents when faced with any civic problem do not know which person or organization to contact in order to solve their problem. In this column we invite the readers to share their worries with us and seek our help, which is always forthcoming - Ed.

Q. What is the existing cover of the Indus Delta mang?

Saira Saleem, Clifton, Karachi

A. According to a recent study conducted by the WWF, the existing cover of the Indus Delta mangroves is 73,000 ha

Q. What is the total number of protected areas in Pakistan?

Ahmed Mujahid, Garden East, Karachi

A. The total number of protected areas in Pakistan is 289, covering 12% of the country's total area

Q. What is the total forest and rangeland cover in Pakistan?

A. Eleven different forest ecological zones ranging from mangrove forests to high alpine pastures are represented in Pakistan with the total designated forest area being 4.2 million hectares or 4.8% of the total land area

**Shehri
needs
volunteers
to work in the
following areas**

Legal
Media & Outreach
Anti-Pollution
Parks & Recreation
Gun Free Society
Conservation & Heritage
Fund Raiser

JOIN SHEHRI To Create a Better Environment

JOIN SHEHRI
To Create a Better
Environment

SHEHRI Citizens for a Better
Environment.
206-G, Block 2, P.E.C.H.S.,
Karachi-75400, Pakistan.
Tel / Fax : 453-0646

With a cross cheque of Rs. 1000/- (Annual Membership Fee)
in the name of Shehri-CBE with passport size photograph

Name : _____

Tel. (Off) : _____ Tel. (Res) : _____

Address : _____

Occupation : _____

SHEHRI MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to renew your
membership for 2009! (Rs. 1000)
Join Shehri and do your bit as a
good citizen to make this city a
clean, healthy and environmentally
friendly place to live in!

ENVIRONMENT

Saving the mangroves

Shehri has recently been appointed a member of the National Co-ordination Body (NCB) of Mangroves for the Future (MFF). Following are highlighted some of the main aims, objectives and function of the NCB.

Mangrove for the Future (MFF) is a partner-led initiative to promote investment in coastal ecosystem conservation for sustainable development. It provides a collaborative platform among the many different agencies, sectors and countries who are addressing challenges to coastal ecosystem and livelihood issues, to work towards a common goal.

MFF aims to build on a history of coastal management interventions before and after the 2004 tsunami, especially the call to continue the momentum and partnerships generated by the immediate post-tsunami response; It focuses on the countries worst-affected by the tsunami; India, Indonesia, Maldives, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. However, MFF will also include other countries of the Region that face similar issues, with an overall aim to promote an integrated ocean wide approach to coastal zone management.

The initiative uses mangroves as a flagship ecosystem in recognition of the destruction caused to mangroves by the tsunami, but MFF is inclusive of all coastal ecosystems, including coral reefs, estuaries, lagoons, sandy beaches, sea grasses and wetlands. Its long-term management strategy is based on identified needs and priorities for long-term sustainable coastal ecosystem management. These priorities emerged from extensive consultations with over 200 individuals and 160 institutes involved in coastal management in the Indian Ocean Region.

MFF seeks to achieve demonstrable results in influencing regional cooperation, national programme support, private sector engagement and community action. This will be achieved using a strategy of generating knowledge, empowering institutions and individuals to promote good governance in coastal ecosystem management.

The range of participation of



different countries, sectors, agencies and stakeholder groups in the Mangroves for the Future (MFF) initiative extends beyond conventional project approaches. MFF is founded on a region-wide approach, strengthening cooperation efforts of sustainable coastal management in participating Indian Ocean countries across Indian Ocean countries. The governance, decision-making and Implementation structures for MFF, therefore, need to reflect this diversity and collaboration.

At the regional level, implementation of the initiative is guided by a Regional Steering Committee co-chaired by IUCN and UNDP, which includes representation from national governments, UN agencies and international NGOs with a regional

mandate. At the national level, MFF is coordinated and steered through strengthening existing mechanisms for coastal management which brings together different agencies, sectors and civil society groups. Programmes of Work will be implemented through a series of individual projects that are linked by a common goal and strategy, but are spread out geographically, temporally, and in terms of management and implementation - responsibility. Many different agencies and organizations will participate in implementing these actions on the ground.

The MFF National Coordinating Bodies, in each of the focal countries of India, Indonesia, Maldives, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Thailand, serve as to coordinate and steer the operation of the initiative at the national level, as well as

to provide a multi-stakeholder forum which will foster improved dialogue, planning and decision-making between the different agencies, sectors and levels of scale involved in coastal management — within the context of MFF and in relation to broad issues and concerns in coastal ecosystem management.

Pakistan joined MFF as observer country and is likely to become regular member of MFF from 2010. Like other member countries Pakistan needs to form National Coordinating Body. □



Terms of Reference of the NCB

- i. Steer and coordinate the implementation of Mangrove for Future at the national level
- ii. Undertake scoping studies to identify integrated coastal management priorities of Pakistan,
- iii. Prepare National Strategy and Action Plan
- iv. Actively facilitate a multi-stakeholder forum which will foster improved dialogue, planning and decision-making between the different agencies, sectors and levels of scale involved in coastal management.
- v. Promote harmonized monitoring and management of coastal ecosystems for sustainable local livelihoods and development
- vi. Promote national dialogues and sharing of lessons learned for improved practices and policies in coastal zone management and development.
- vii. Oversee the delivery of MFF results in Pakistan
- viii. Ensure regular communication, learning and information-sharing between MFF projects in Pakistan.
- ix. Support capacity-building at national and local levels through MFF.
- x. Facilitate linkages between ongoing and new initiatives which contribute towards MFF in Pakistan.
- xi. Encourage resource mobilization to implement the programmes of work under the MFF in Pakistan.
- xii. Prepare and update on a regular basis national work plans and budgets for the implementation of MFF.
- xiii. Manage national calls for proposals for MFF, and review and endorse projects for consideration by the Regional steering Committee.
- xiv. Make decisions about the allocation of funding under the national small grants facility in Pakistan.
- xv. Prepare bi-annual progress reports on the implementation and progress of MFF in Pakistan, and submit these to the MFF Secretariat. □



A loving bondage!

Bold, inquisitive and caring – just a few attributes of young Shehri member, Syeda Fatima Surrayia Gardezi, daughter of Shehri Vice Chairperson, Dr. Syed Raza Gardezi, who recently nursed a baby Black Kite out of injury with such caring love and affection that now the whole Black Kite family refuses to leave her! A truly loving bondage and a message for all – care for all God's creations, particularly those that are vulnerable. □