

Unit 12 Urban environmental system

Husam Abdulfatah Haron, Malaysia

**Kulliyyah of Architecture & Environmental Design, International Islamic University
Malaysia**

Idealistic Urban Approach

The session was chaired by Mr. Sanjay Prakash and Yoshiyuki Shimoda with nine paper presenters in which Q&A session was done immediately after each paper presentation. It was interesting to see the effort of conservation and sustainability being poured into one cup by people from all over the world. As the environmental and health impacts urban growth become more apparent, many cities have begun to adopt more farsighted urban systems. I missed the first presentation by Mr. Prasad on his triple bottom line (TBL) assessment for sustainability focusing on neighborhood. Personally this would be the best topic for a discussion because I do believe that this is where urban sustainability starts... from home.

The session has also seen that within the existing urban environment, there is a system in place that will support and provide energy to more people per given area than in typical suburban development. The metabolism approach presented by Mr. Phdungsilp provides a framework for understanding the interactions between economics in urban energy use by looking at the whole city perspective on indirect energy use. His idea, to my knowledge, is somehow supported by the paper presented by Mr. Yoshizawa with the issue to supply energy for a densely built-up area in Tokyo with other papers focusing on large areas presented later by Mr. Munguia and Mr. Takaoka, both presenting on EcoParque and urban genesis project respectively.

Mr. Macoun had grasped the fundamental fact that urban areas were not simply places needing energy, transport, and waste services but rather were integrated systems within which a rapidly increasing fraction of humanity's wealth, production, innovation, and encounters with the environment were taking place. He urges that planners consider the ecological and energy use behavior in their professional practice. Fortunately, it can be seen today that people are actually moving toward that goal. Serrano's breakthrough idea sees the city as a 4-D space, very radical and interesting especially the multi-dimensional transportation.

The session suggests that challenges posed by human-environment interactions in urban settings should not be received only as passing notice. More recently, the use of idle land can actually be enhanced for restructuring. Mr. Tanaka explained how his "seaside farm" can actually promote sustainability with right interaction with the environment. How Mr. Lau sees it, high-rise in

Malaysia should be turned into water harvester for a number of uses rather than wasting it as ground run-off. Personally I think such catchments should be implemented on the façade rather than the roof as the area exposed is much larger.

Much of what has been learned over the conference about the needs and opportunities for sustainable urbanization is confined to individual places and sectors, with little contribution from integrated analysis or comparison above the local level. Opportunities for promoting sustainable urbanization on a global scale has been realized in conference such as SB05Tokyo summarizing in qualitative terms the ways in which urbanization has promoted improvements in human well-being as well as the range of environmental hazards that often accompany those improvements. The "action for sustainability" envisioned by SB05Tokyo will almost certainly emerge as a benchmark to shape rapid urbanization in ways that will enhance both social and environmental livability.