

Unit 12 Urban environmental system

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The session of Urban Environmental System started by three key authors who presented papers about water, energy and urban design. The papers talked in general about green, implementation, planning, eco-building, evaluation system and transportation. This session gathered authors from different disciplines such as architects, civil engineers and also farmer, which makes the presentations and the discussion interesting.

I was personally impressed by two presentations. The first one showed a great visual animation of a proposal transportation system in the future cities that is explained in details in the paper: "Four dimensional cities, towards an urban paradigm shift" by Valeria Serrano (Argentina), and the second presentation was done by Mosato Tomaka, who is one of Osaka Gas staff (Japan) and also a farmer. His activity as a farmer encouraged him to do his research related to sustainable urban agriculture and his motivation for the following topic: "Feasibility study on sustainable urban agriculture using idle land in the Osaka bay area for the purpose of industrial infrastructure restructuring" was shown through his presentation during this session.

In my point of view, the conception, test and improvement by the project's users are always welcomed in research field since the developer is the first one concerned by the project and knows well what is missed and needed to improve.

Beside some experimental punctual projects, which the result's accuracy was checked or under check, there was different kind of project at regional impact that involved students, authorities and researchers, it was presented by Francisco Javier Cardenas Munguia (Mexico) in the paper: "EcoParque Nogueras, a demonstrative project of regional sustainability". This project's program offered training and organized workshops and offered assistance for the visitors, which is absolutely a part of sustainability education.

This joins the role of cultural factor in everyone's behavior toward a sustainable urban environmental system. For example, the way of how we grew up might be related to the modal choice and the cost of transportation, like in the case of India where walking is better than waiting for the transportation, as it was mentioned by the audience.