

Unit 14 Rapidly populating cities/ rapid urbanization

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As the world economy reveals that urbanization has a positive correlation with a country's economic growth which one percent increase annually in urbanization usually adds three percentage points to. More and more statistics show almost all the countries of the world especially developing ones are keeping on this step to revival their prosperity that must lead to a climax of rapidly populating cities and expanded scale of urbanization.

Thanks to the professor Du Plessis Chrisna and Kaixun Sha, callers of Unit 14(Rapidly populating cities/ rapid urbanization); we had a very brilliant discussion in this Breakout Session. Many researches and experts also including some students expressed their opinions on rapid urbanization, population problems and city planning, which could be summarized as follows:

The common acquaintance of current situations:

As the words above, if the urbanization could benefit countries economy effectively, this must also bring on some conflicts between rapid urbanization and city planning, inconsonance between rapid increscent populations and limit resource available in the world. To seek for a high speed of development, all governments of nations persist in a policy of urban expanding, not only existed cities and towns have expanded, but also some new ones have been built up in almost every corner of the world within the last fifty years. Due to large-scale constructions of cities and rapid increscent populations of the world, more and more problems emerged from many fields of living conditions, for example: traffic, employment, aging population, extravagance, duplicated constructions, social security system, overuse of natural resources, environmental deterioration, and imbalanced regional development.

Another important issue should be taken into account is the population problem. It comes to light that it is the primary matter of urbanization in developing countries just like China and India. Compared with current 6.4 thousand million all over the world, new research, which is from the Population Reference Bureau, a private group based in Washington, shows that the earth will have more than 9000 million people by 2050. It says that most growth will take place in developing countries in Africa and western Asia. India is expected to pass China as the world's most populated nation. By the middle of the century, the report says, India will have over one and one-half thousand million citizens, an increase

of fifty percent. China currently has 1.3 thousand million people. The Population Reference Bureau says the population should increase about ten percent by 2050. As we all know that more people bring on more requirements for food supplies and inhabitancy which are the reasons of low quality of living conditions. Rapid population increase is not the correct approach of rapid urbanization. What to do and how to deal with the problems are most significant in the future.

The development of cities and the progress of urbanization are the important symbol reflecting the development level of a nation. However, population is not the only criterion upon which to judge the rate of urbanization. Urbanization is an important process of social development, an utilize fully of the resources and a comprehensive reflection of people living. Resource problem is the last one to be discussed. More resources should be put in for the construction and expansion of large- and medium-sized cities because they have a much stronger capacity to accommodate resources and deliver much more economic returns to the overall economy. Urbanization will require a large investment in infrastructural construction, including water supplies, communications and waste handling facilities. Undertaking these projects would stimulate domestic demand and hasten urbanization however at the same time cause reduplicate constructions and consume lots of resource. Urbanization is a process of resource moving and resource conversion, also a course of creation, conversion and regeneration of the resource. Therefore how to reach to integration of various resources through urbanization is rather significant for countries from all over the world to realize its sustainable development.

Benefits for all, responsibility from all:

Based on the serious condition of human being, we must know that it is the time for us to face on the problems and to solve them, but not the time to evade the problems as extravagance, duplicated constructions, and limited resources. We must know that promoting sustainable concept and earnest practice are our common obligations. We have steered our course by our enduring values that has based on the basic benefits of human being. Benefits for all, responsibility from all, all the work we have done and will do, all the documents we have delivered and will declare, we sincerely tried and try to promote a blueprint of living conditions, full of sustainable developments, more modern, more effective, always putting people first, always focusing on the future, and dedicate ourselves to this undertaking.

What are the sustainable developments of urbanization and blueprint of living conditions are not to be sneezed at. Referring to many problems caused by rapid urbanization in many countries, there should be like this: proper population

scale and increscent pace; reasonable land utilize; high-efficient economy development; rational social progress; comfortable inhabitation and environment; convenient traffic and correspond; economical consumed cost of resource; clean water and fresh air; at last a harmonious urban-rural development.

We must live and grow in a way that we can continue to do that - to live and grow forever. Sustainable development is an idea. It is about living in such a way that you can continue to live that way without running out of the materials you need, without destroying nature and other forms of life, and without harming other people - including other nations or other generations. You have to make informed choices, like choosing a sustainable energy source. Then we should use these resources that are renewable

Living in a sustainable way is directly dependant on your consumption of resources. As Mahatma Gandhi, a leader and philosopher from India once said: "The earth provides enough to satisfy every person's need but not every person's greed... when we take more than we need, we are simply taking from each other, borrowing from the future, or destroying the environment and other species". So we must take action as soon as possible, to limit the infinite urban expanding, to control the population increase within measure, to decrease and evade the environmental deterioration, to promote the harmonious urban-rural development, that are all hard work which need long time and endure endeavor. We must regard arousing people's consciousness of sustainable development as the priority, to educate our people how to decrease duplicated constructions, how to make the best of resource, how to live in a sustainable way and get a sustainable future.

United action, sustainable future:

In the Breakout Session a lot of researches and experts also including some students call for the actions on sustainable ways of living, of work and of education, especially in the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Many of them talked about the measures their government had taken on and also some good ideas about leading people to a sustainable ways of living. They emphasized that in modern society the governments should assume obligations on city expanding and environmental deterioration. Because that sustainable development is depending on sound economic principles, a basic idea in this development is the polluter pays principle. This means that the one who pollutes, should also pay for the negative environmental impacts. Therefore, it is important that we develop economic systems that discourage pollution and exploitation of natural resources, and enchourage the use less energy. A consequence of a system like this, is that the use of renewable energy sources becomes more

attractive on the market. The government should lead people to seek for the Green GDP but not the developmental mode of high devotion, high production and high consumption. Excessive consumption is not the reflection of prosperity absolutely. Leading a sustainable way should be the fountain of progress.

They indicated that all nations should know the danger if there are no measures on the urbanization and increased population and are taking steps to coordinate the relationship between them. Of course there are some successful experience to share and also some failure cases to warn. Anyway, we could learn something from it.

Acting quickly, we will harvest the future. Let us echo the famous words: "Just do it." Despite twists and turns on the road ahead, there are bright prospects for this cause. So long as we work together for the sustainable future tirelessly, we will surely achieve the great goals that we have been pursuing together and accomplish the lofty cause that we have been promoting.