

SID-UNIDO-ADA Introductory Workshop

“Development of Human Settlements- Challenges for Sustainability”

Context

Ever more people worldwide live in urban regions; intensive urban sprawl is leading to an increase in the number of mega-cities and partly to a decline in the number of smaller towns and villages. Sustainable development in urban regions and communities subjected to rapid depopulation across the globe is thus key to meeting the numerous sustainability challenges that humankind is facing. Among the most prominent problems that warrant attention and for which adequate solutions have to be found are:

Lack of:

- Jobs, income
- Housing
- Basic infrastructure (roads, post and telecommunication systems, other means of communication water, heating, cooling, , etc)
- Accessibility and sustainable mobility opportunities
- Energy
- Clean air and water
- Health-care services
- Educational facilities
- Lack of green space
- Basic security (drug addiction and crime)
- Participation in governance systems, etc.

Labor markets in most cities in emerging economies are not in a position to offer new jobs fast enough to their rapidly expanding populations. To an ever-increasing degree it is becoming particularly difficult in the developing countries to find openings for unskilled migrants from rural areas. Current companies and new enterprises alike fail to meet the basic prerequisites essential to evoking a spirit of modern corporate social and environmental responsibility. This makes progress towards sustainable development even more difficult than the challenges posed by the lack of investment in new enterprises. The migration of people to the big cities in search of a better livelihood leads to depopulation of villages and small towns, aggravating the economic and social conditions in the big cities as well as the countryside.

The lack of income-earning opportunities and the rapid migration to the cities and towns compound the problems of securing acceptable housing for both the newcomers and the many residents already dwelling there. Those shortcomings go hand in hand with the lack of a decent basic infrastructure and security. This lack of income-earning opportunities and basic services in rural and small town communities lead to rapid emigration from these areas and pressure on the large cities, the mere speed of change makes it difficult to cope with the challenges cities face.

Life in the slums is aggravated by the environmental problems encountered, such as the lack of clean water and air, as well as reliable garbage disposal services.

Educational opportunities are invariably insufficient, thus limiting the chances for social upwards mobility.

Drug abuse and crime is often a further feature of these deprived areas, ultimately leading to social unrest and misery.

Energy availability is precarious in less developed, particularly peripheral regions, in all countries of the world, but particularly so in the South. Access to energy, even of a very traditional kind, is limited, as are, if not more so, the changes needed to bring about a sustainable system with its new technologies. In recognition of this challenge, access to energy has been identified as a priority theme for the UN in the decade to come.

Workshop

Date: October 29, 2013, 9:00 – 12:00

Venue: Bank Austria, “Oktogon”, Vienna 1010, Schottengasse 6

Participants:

- Students and lecturers of seminars offered at BOKU, MODUL Univ., TU Vienna, Univ. of VIENNA, WU Vienna
- Members and staff of organizing institutions
- Experts

Program

9:00 -9:30 Registration

9:30-10:15

Session 1

9:30-9:45

Words of welcome and opening (chair: Uwe Schubert,SID)

- T. Nowotny (SID)
- “UNIDO Institute for Capacity Development - a new initiative for managing UNIDO relations with research and academic society”
J. Cukrowski (UNIDO)

9:45 -10:15

Introduction to the seminars by the leaders (chair: Uwe Schubert,SID)

-M. Getzner (TU Vienna)

-C. Graf (UNIVIE)

-S. Sedlacek (MODUL)

-G. Stöglehner/W. Seher (BOKU)

-F. Wukovitsch (WU)

10:15 – 10:30

- Break

10:30-12:00

Session 2

Development of Human Settlements- challenges and approaches (chair: Uwe Schubert, SID)

10:30 – 11:00

- “Basic elements of local development: actors and actions”

P. Hesp (SID)

11:00 - 11:15

- Discussion

11:15 - 11:45

- Urban and peri-urban energy challenges in Developing Countries – addressing the challenges of energy poverty, energy security and climate change mitigation simultaneously: Project examples from different countries

M. Lugmayr (UNIDO)

11:45 -12:00

- Discussion

12:00 End of workshop

Short CV's

Cukrowski, Jacek is a Unit Chief at Development Policy, Statistics and Research Branch of United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). His academic background includes an MSc in system engineering, PhD in computer science, and PhD and habilitation (i.e., a senior post-doctoral qualification) in economics. He has extensive teaching and research experience in international trade, development economics and macroeconomics

Getzner Michael, Professor of Public Finance and Infrastructure Policy, University of Technology Vienna; Ph.D. (1992) on environmental taxation (Vienna Univ of Economics and Business Administration); habilitation (2001) in economics (Klagenfurt Univ); 2005-2010: director of the international M.Sc. programme "Management of Protected Areas" (Klagenfurt Univ). Over 120 reviewed publications in journals, collective volumes and conferences, in the main research fields of public finance, infrastructure, ecological economics.

Graf, Christoph is a research and teaching assistant at the chair of Industry, Energy, and Environment (Professor Wirl) at the University of Vienna.

Hesp, Paul studied economic geography and has regularly worked as a consultant for UNIDO since 1984

Lugmayr, Martin, Renewable Energy Expert at the UNIDO Energy and Climate Change Branch, coordinates the Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centers and other projects. The expert was based in Cape Verde at the ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) for several years. Before joining UNIDO he was managing the energy program of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and worked for the Development Cooperation Department at the Austrian Ministry for European and International Affairs. He also served as assistant to the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (www.gfse.at) for several years. Mr. Lugmayr holds a MSc in renewable energy of the Vienna University of Technology and and a MA in Political Science of the University of Innsbruck.

Nowotny, Thomas is the president of SID Vienna Chapter, teaches political science at the University of Vienna, formerly Austrian diplomat

Schubert, Uwe is a retired professor of environmental and urban economics at the university of Economics and Business in Vienna. He is the vice-president of SID, Vienna Chapter.

Sedlacek, Sabine is an assistant professor at Vienna's MODUL University. Her research covers governance and community development issues and their relation to sustainable development

Seher, Walter is an assistant professor at the University of Life Sciences in Vienna. His main research and teaching fields comprise land management, land consolidation, rural development, spatial planning and flood risk management, spatial planning and agriculture

Stöglehner, Gernot is an associate professor at the University of Life Sciences in Vienna. His research and teaching is focused on sustainable community development in rural areas

Wukovitsch, Florian is a researcher at the Institute for the Environment and Regional Development at the Vienna University of Economics and Business. His research focus is on social innovation and welfare provision at the local level.

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