

Minutes of the National Workshop on Culture, Heritage and Religious Cities under the PEARL Programme at Madurai on 2nd February 2009

The national workshop for PEARL Cultural, Heritage and Religious cities was held at Hotel GRT Regency, 38, Madakulam Main Road, Madurai on 2nd February 2009. The cities covered in Group D were, Madurai, Varanasi, Agra, Amritsar, Allahabad, Panaji, Bodhgaya, Ujjain, Puri, Ajmer-Pushkar, Mysore, Pondicherry, Mathura, Haridwar and Nanded. The Senior Officials of the Group D attended this one-day workshop city, officials from MOUD, NIUA, and NTAG as well as representatives from UNESCOIHCN, INTACH, ICLEI, Dhan foundation and CEPT. The list of the participants along with the programme schedule is presented in the Annexure:

Agenda of the Madurai PEARL workshop:

The main purpose of Madurai workshop was to prepare an outline of activities for the group, specifically related to the following aspects:

- Information/knowledge Support expected for Heritage Plans/DPRs
- Finalize Networking Themes or Areas
- City Initiatives, Best Practices and Links to India Urban Portal
- Capacity Building Needs
- Learn from other resource groups/partners and identify areas of “working together”

Inaugural plenary:

The inaugural plenary was graced by the presence of Shri Venugopal DS. NURM, Ministry of Urban Development, Hon’ble Mayor of Madurai, Tmt Thenmozhi, Deputy Mayor Thiru P M Mannan, Commissioner Thiru D. J. Dhinakaran, Shri Chetan Vaidya, Director, NIUA and Shri C K Koshy, Professor Emeritus, CEPT.

The inaugural session was moderated by Shri Madan Kumar, Dhan foundation and commenced with a prayer to lord Madurai. Shri Abhai Kumar, Member, CTAG gave a welcome speech to all workshop participants, followed by the Lighting of lamp ceremony performed by Tmt Thenmozhi, Hon’ble Mayor of Madurai followed by all Hon’ble dais speakers.

Hon’ble mayor Tmt Thenmozhi and Deputy Mayor Thiru P M Mannan welcomed the participant in their welcome speech to the temple city of Madurai. Unfolding of the Heritage Brochure of Madurai city followed the welcome speech.

Shri Chetan Vaidya, Director NIUA, gave the introductory address where he highlighted the various aspects and expected outcomes of PEARL initiative. Prof. Vaidya also congratulated the Madurai Municipal Corporation for the achievements in “best practices award”.

Prof. C.K. Koshy of CEPT, in his short address, emphasised upon the need of a joint action plan and grand level implementations.

Thiru D J Dhinakaran, Commissioner, Marudai Municipal Corporation extended a warm welcome to all workshop participants. In his speech he gave an in-depth overview of interlink-ages between environmental, cultural and religious aspects of Urban Development as well as highlighted the various recent initiatives in the context of Madurai.

In his special address Shri M P Vasimalai, NTAG member, highlighted the activities of the newly formed heritage cell at Madurai. His suggestions touched upon the various important issues pertaining to preparation of Heritage Plan and DPRs for cultural and heritage cities. He also emphasised on regional as well as theme based co-operations amongst the cities under the PEARL programme.

Shri Venugopal, Deputy Secretary NURM, Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) New Delhi addressed the workshop where he highlighted the limited proposals/ heritage DPR's from the urban renewal and heritage sector as compared to the other sectors under JnNURM. In his speech, he specifically addressed the under utilization of funds in this sector under JnNURM by the group D Cities. Prof. Saswat Bandyopadhyay Programme co-ordinator CEPT thanked all the dignitaries at the dais for their speeches and invited all participants to the Tea.

SESSION I: Overview Of Pearl Knowledge Management Activities

The Technical session on overview of PEARL – Knowledge Management Activities commenced immediately after the tea break. This session was chaired by Prof. Chetan Vaidya, Director, NIUA. At the outset Prof. Chetan Vaidya invited the session speakers to make their presentations.

- Prof. V. K. Dhar, NIUA made a presentation on the overall PEARL activities wherein he discussed the formation of manageable networks between JnNURM cities for cross learning/sharing knowledge on projects, urban reforms and city governance. He also shared the details of new portal (www.indiaurbanportal.in) wherein member cities can share their information and best practices.
- Shri Prakash Kumar, Director, Public Sector, IBSG, CISCO, on “Collaboration and Urban Governance”. His presentation highlighted how IT can help in urban governance as well as management of city networks. His presentation included a live videoconference with his colleague from Australia.
- Prof. Saswat Bandyopadhyay Programme co-ordinator CEPT, gave an outline of PEARL group D activities from Agra to Madurai. His presentation also highlighted the probable areas where the group activities need strengthening.
- Shri Debashish Nayak, Advisor, Heritage Cell, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation gave a detailed presentation on Heritage Conservation Initiatives in Ahmedabad, followed by a short documentary, prepared by Discovery channel.

SESSION II: City Presentations

The Technical Session II on City Presentation/ City Heritage Initiatives, Challenges and Information Needs was chaired by Shri. C.K. Koshy, Prof. Emeritus, CEPT.

- Session II began with a presentation on “Indian Heritage Cities Network” (IHCN) by Ms. Nicole Bolomey, Programme Specialist, Culture, UNESCO, New Delhi. In her presentation, Ms. Nicole Bolomey highlighted some of the core focus areas of IHCN, as under:
 - Platform for sharing knowledge, expertise, experience, and good practices
 - Research, Pilot schemes, Tools and Methods, prepare manuals, guidelines, tool-kits and other material, publish and disseminate
 - Educational material, conducting courses, trainings and other activities for the capacity building
 - International and national partnerships, collaboration and technical exchange
 - Mainstream heritage concerns into policy, legislation, planning acts and processes, building regulations and approval processes, and other regulatory frameworks, as well as programmes directly or indirectly related to the historic urban and rural environment
 - Provide collaboration with partners, a service for Appraisal, Monitoring, Advise, and Evaluation of laws, policies, projects, and consultants at national, state and local level.
 - Promote professional standards in conservation, restoration and adaptive reuse of heritage properties.

- Shri P.K. Patnaik, Planning Member, Puri Konark Development Authority (PKDA) highlighted the challenges and developmental issues related to Puri and Konark heritage areas. His presentation also highlighted the following specific issues:
 - Temples, Mutts, sacred tanks need renovation and regular maintenance.
 - The surroundings of Jagannath Temple need conservation
 - Modern structures a threat to heritage buildings.
 - Sacred tanks need rejuvenation & beautification
 - Akhhadas/ Jaga ghara need revitalization promotion of pilgrimage & tourist facilities
 - Organizing informal sector
 - Public conveniences, Accommodation and Transport for local public and pilgrims
 - City level infrastructure such as solid waste management, Sewerage network, Drainage network etc.

- Mr. A Balasubramainian, Commissioner, Pondicherry Municipality, gave a brief address on challenges for heritage conservation in Pondicherry. Followed by, a power point presentation by Mr. Ajit Koujalgi, INTACH, Pondicherry on conservation and rejuvenation of heritage structure in Pondicherry.

- Mr. Sachidanandan, Dy. Commissioner, Varanasi Nagar Nigam, began his presentations with few glimpses of Kashi heritage structure and its festivals.

Subsequently, his presentation highlighted various initiatives taken by city in the field of heritage conservation Mr. Sachidanandan also presented some challenges faced by city in the field of urban renewal and heritage, as Varanasi is the one of the most densely populated urban centres of Uttar Pradesh.

- Smt. Leela Manjunath, Commissioner, Heritage, Govt. of Karnataka, gave a detailed overview of Mysore city heritage structures as well as discussed the key issues and challenges of heritage conservation initiative at the city as well as the state level.
- Shri Pradyuman Singh, Executive Engineer, Amritsar Municipal Corporation, presented various initiatives taken by Amritsar Municipal Corporation for promotion and preservation of heritage. His presentation included glimpses of infrastructure works towards management of traffic near the heritage precincts.

After a brief open forum discussion, Prof. C K Koshy delivered his concluding remarks as a Chair of the session. In his concluding remarks, Prof. Koshy gave a summary of issues raised by various speakers and participants. Subsequently, he invited all participants to join for the lunch.

SESSION III: City Presentations (contd...)

This post lunch session continued with the city presentations and was chaired by Prof Chetan Vaidya. While inviting to the dais, Prof. Vaidya requested the speakers to adhere to the time limits so that more time could be given for open forum discussion.

- Shri RM Valliappan, Principal Architect, Madurai, presented a power point presentation on Preparation of DPR for Madurai Municipal Corporation. His presentation gave an outline of Madurai heritage DPR highlighting various urban design, landscaping and street furniture proposals surrounding the Meenakshi temple and thus other places of heritage importance.
- Prof. G Balaji, associated with the newly formed Heritage Cell of Madurai Municipal Corporation, gave a detailed presentation on Heritage Development Plan for Madurai. Prof. Balaji's presentation raised thought provoking questions related to heritage definitions, heritage coverage under JnNURM and issues/challenges of heritage development plan.
- Shri Ajit Koujalgi of INTACH, Pondicherry, presented a power point presentation on Conservation & rejuvenation of heritage structure in Pondicherry. Through his presentation, he also raised the issues related to Heritage Toolkit and coverage of JnNURM heritage DPR.
- Shri. Debashish Nayak, Advisor, Heritage Cell, Ahmedabad Municipal corporation gave his second presentation on Heritage Conservation Process initiated by Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation AMC and different steps take for heritage

conservation. He also discussed about the initial primary survey and “how to prepare heritage database” as well as details of Heritage cell activities”.

- Prof Saswat Bandyopadhyay made a brief power point presentation on “Heritage Initiative and Cities”. His presentation included a detailed road map for heritage conservation at local body level. He also shared the links of heritage related building regulations in Ahmedabad as well as the draft Gujarat State Heritage Policy.

Prof. Chetan Vaidya extended his appreciation to all session speakers as well as delivered his concluding remarks for the session.

SESSION IV: Open Forum On “Expectations & Outcomes”

The final technical session on “Expectations, Outcomes & Strengthening” of cultural and heritage cities Knowledge Network was chaired by Prof. C.K. Koshy. During this session, Prof. Saswat Bandyopadhyay highlighted a few questions and invited the participants to respond. The questions raised were as follows:

- How the member cities intend to tap the opportunities under the PEARL/JnNURM? (Heritage Plans/DPRs)
- What are the specific activities or areas where this network should focus in short/long term?
- Do we need theme or sector specific subgroups? (“Temple Cities” or “Heritage DPR”?)
- Specific Information/Knowledge Support from the Knowledge Manager (Virtual Help Desk? Online support? Toolkits? Newsletters? Any other?)
- Specific Capacity Building Inputs:
 - Theme Specific Workshops?
 - Need Based Trainings?
 - Exposure Visits, City-City Exchange Visits?
 - Visit by Experts
 - Any Other Suggestions?

During this open forum, several important issues were raised as well as views were expressed:

- The proposal of ‘Theme based Sub-Grouping’ received varied response from the participants. Shri. Ajit Koujalgi, INTACH, Pondicherry, suggested that if theme based grouping is made, then the main theme of PEARL for conservation of architecture would change and may become too specific. Whereas, Shri RM Valliappan of Madurai supported the idea of theme based grouping like temple city, as their problems tend to be similar. Similarly, Mr. Madan Kumar of Dhan foundation suggested that instead of national level workshop, regional theme specific workshops may be more fruitful.

- Ms. Nicole Bolomey of UNESCO-IHCN made a very important remark regarding overemphasis of peri-pheral infrastructure such as lighting, fly-overs etc in the present DPRs. She also informed that UNESCO is already working on a toolkit pertaining to Heritage DPRs. Shri Ajit Koujalgi requested for a clarification on the “Restoration component” as indicated in the present JnNURM guidelines.
- Mr. P K Patnaik suggested that a guideline is required to limit or stop construction of modern architecture/buildings within a periphery of 100 mts of any heritage monument.
- Shri. Pradyuman Singh of Amritsar Municipal Corporation and Shri Sachidanandan of Varanashi Nagar nigam emphasised on the capacity building needs of the city as well as handholding support required by the cities in preparation of Heritage Development Plans and DPRs.
- Shri Prakash Kumar of CISCO suggested the national E-governance type framework might be adopted in information sharing and management of the city networks.

While summarising the discussions, Prof. C K Koshy elated the mood of the session through his suggestion of ‘Madurai Declaration’ by the heritage cities. He further suggested that a meeting of all municipal commissioners at MOUD, Delhi might be convened at the earliest.

Valedictory and way forward:

In this concluding session, a draft framework for action for the network cities was discussed as under:

- Madurai to chair the Group D city network for 2009-2010
- Theme specific core groups to be formed and organisation of sub group specific workshops in future
- To conduct a cluster based regional training programme on preparation of DPRs and Preparation of Heritage Plan
- To develop an expert desk facility to extend the requisite support to cities in institutionalising the heritage activities through

Prof. Chetan Vaidya finally delivered the vote of thanks and expressed his gratitude to the Chair City Madurai for its overwhelming support and cooperation extended in organizing the 2nd PEARL group workshop.

Subsequently, the participants were invited to a city heritage tour and evening dinner organised by the Madurai Municipal Corporation and CTAG members.

Annexure

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Sr. No.	Name	Designation	Organisation	Contact No.
	Tmt Thenmozhi	Hon'ble Mayor	Madurai Municipal Corporation (MMC)	9442193333
	Thiru P. M. Mannan,	Deputy Mayor	Madurai Municipal Corporation (MMC)	0452-2533889
	Thiru D. J. Dhinakaran	Commissioner	Madurai Municipal Corporation (MMC)	0452-2533889
	Shri Venugopal DS	NURM	Ministry of Urban Development (MOUD), New Delhi	
	Shri Chetan Vaidya	Director	NIUA, New Delhi	
	Shri M.P. Vasimalair	Member	NTAG	
	Shri Abhai Kumar,	Madurai	Member CTAG	
	Prof. C.K.Koshy	Retd. IAS, Prof. Emeritus Faculty	CEPT	9879525050
	Prof. Debashish Nayak	Advisor, Heritage Cell,	Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation	9829032866
	Prof. Saswat Bandyopadhyay	Project Coordinator	CEPT	9426319352
	Prof. V K Dhar	Hudco Chair Professor	NIUA, New Delhi	011-24617517
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	Ms. Nicole Bolomey	Programme Specialist	culture UNESCO/IHCN	9871316402
	P.K.Patnaik	Planning Member & Secretary	Puri Konark Development Authority	9437022635
	Ms. Neela Manjunath	Commissioner Archaeology	Museum & Heritage	9449637501

	Parduman Singh	Executive Engineer	Municipal Corporation - Amritsar	9417181329
	A. Balasubramanian	Commissioner	Pondicherry Municipality	9443234073
	A. Selvaraj	Commissioner	Oulgaret Municipality	9443371671
	Sachidanand Singh	Deputy Municipal Commissioner	Varanasi Municipal Corp.	9415277673
	M.Mourougassamy	Superintending Engg.	Oulgaret Municipality	9443371672
	P. Sundara Nadaradjan	Jr. Town Planner	Pondicherry Planning Authority	9443288554
	V.Vidjea Nehru	Jr. Town Planner	Town & Country Planning Dept.	9842912305
	G. Balaji	Asst. Professor	Dept. of Architecture, T.C.E	9843277278
	Ms. Renu Handa	Specialist-Heritage & Social Development	City Managers Association(CMAMP)	9893050734
	Thiru R. Vijayakumar	Superintending Engr.	Madurai Municipal Corporation (MMC)	9443789787
	Y.R.Ramanath	Architect	Madurai Municipal Corporation (MMC)	9843050615
	A. Devadass	Asst. Commissioner	Madurai Municipal Corporation (MMC)	9443739515
	Thiru.K.Sakthivel	Chief Engineer	Madurai Municipal Corporation (MMC)	9443739526
	A. Mathuram	Executive Engg.	Madurai Municipal Corporation (MMC)	9443739508
	A. T. Narasimhan	AEE	Madurai Municipal Corporation (MMC)	9442527899
	Ar. R.M.Vanuappan	Architect	Madurai Municipal Corporation (MMC)	9843075856
	A. Madhan Kumar	Programme Leader	Dhan Foundation	9486017722
	S. Arun Jai Petu Pradhhep	Secretariat & Project Coordinator	Dhan Foundation	9842107506
	Prakash Kumar	Director, Public Sector	Cisco System	9910037119
	Ms. Deepa Madhavan	Senior Architect	INTACH	9444058864
	A.K.Das	Civil Engg	INTACH	9443284246
	Ajit Koujalgi	Co-convenor	INTACH	9435365058

	Ashish Rao Ghorpade	Senior Project Officer	ICLEI_SP	9818011633
	C. Sellakrishnan	Project Coordinator	ICLEI- South Asia	9788620738
	S.R. Fatima	Principal	Fatima College	9940964029
	Mr. Kunal Marvaniya	Project Manager	CEPT	9898076989
	Mr. Ravi Sharma	Research Associate	CEPT	9904996047