KLRTC V: Sustainable Urban Transport in Asia and the Pacific Region, June 12 – 19, 2005

The Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre (KLRTC), has continued to strive towards meeting its goal to promote the exchange of expertise and experience in basic urban environment management. With continued support from CITYNET, UNITAR, KL City Hall, UNDP, Veolia Environment and other partners, the fifth training course was successfully held from June 12 to 19, 2005. KLRTC V focused on “Sustainable Urban Transport in Asia and the Pacific Region,” with over 30 trainees from more than 10 countries participating.

Through various modules, KLRTC V addressed key transport issues for cities in the Asia-Pacific Region. These included modules on knowledge management as a tool for building a sustainable urban transport system, developing the master plan of an urban transport system, the application of ICT in managing urban transport infrastructure, public-private partnerships, integrated transport development, land use planning, and bus rapid transit systems.

Several study visits were made during the course: to ITS Konsortium, KL Sentral Station, KL Monorail and Putrajaya Transportation. Participants found the study visits to be particularly informative and effective, giving them a first-hand view of Kuala Lumpur’s transport system, and enabling them to develop action plans for their own cities.

The cases of Kuala Lumpur, Seoul, Yokohama and Bogota were also introduced as good practices during the course. The participants gained valuable expertise through the experience of other cities in these case studies.

Sustainable transport training highlights that the city government should provide not only motorized public transport but also non-motorized, and provide public space, good access and mobility. The most interesting topics were lectures introducing information on how urban transport can be carried out more effectively, efficiently and integrated.

– Dandi Pryantara Saoedi, Public Works Agency, Tangeran City, Indonesia
LESSONS LEARNED

Key lessons learned from KLRTC V include:

Sustainable Urban Transport system
- Integrated transport system in urban areas: linkage of bus, train, taxi, etc.
- Environment-friendly system: bicycle, monorail, etc.
- Application of ICT to transport infrastructure.
- Public transportation priority policy: train, subway, bus, etc.

Sustainable Urban Transport management
- Making the master plan of an urban transport system
- Networking on diverse urban transport
- Land use for effective urban transport
- Bus operation system for efficient public transportation
- Regulations on passenger cars
- Encouragement of public transportation use
- Providing traffic information
- Monitoring the traffic situation
- Rapid response to traffic accidents

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(to be continued on the next page...)

It was a surprise to me that, the traffic management center has the facility, whenever necessary, of displaying messages to motorists on boards fixed on the road. It was very interesting to make a visit to KL Sentral. It is no doubt that each and every participant admired it and was satisfied. We were able to notice that, all major modes of transport are linked to one central location.

– Philip Dilan Laksiri Fernando Pulle, SLILG, Sri Lanka
I have experienced well-integrated bus and train services in Kuala Lumpur, especially monorail and LRT. By improving the quality of train service, i.e. number of trips, punctuality, reasonable fare, easy and quick accesses to the railway stations, etc. have reduced the car ownership apparently.

– Sooriyaarachchige Nirodhanie Pathiraja, Colombo Municipal Council, Sri Lanka

ACTION PLAN

Through this training course and knowledge gathered, it is felt that Chittagong needs a well-defined and sustainable urban transport system highlighting economic activities and targeting its poverty alleviation goal. Following should be its immediate action plan:

- Involving people in the planning process
- Making accessibility of transportation system to the majority of people, especially low income groups
- Formulation and implementation of different strategies to achieve a sustainable transportation system
- Development of human resources to achieve the above targets

- Shah Mohammad Akhteruddin, Chief Engineer, Chittagong Development Authority, Bangladesh

San Jose City will continue to pursue its sustainable transport system. This was made clear in the next activity identified in its knowledge management system.

- Winifred E. Frias, City Planning and Development Coordinator, San Jose City, Philippines

After the training, GTZ and TEI would like to develop low-budget initiatives, e.g. car-free day, for the City of Chiang Mai and other potential cities together. With cooperation from TEI, Mr. Carlos Pardo visited Chiang Mai to introduce NMT initiatives to the city executives and their involved staff.

- Nongpal Chanchaeroen, Research Associate, Thailand Environment Institute, Thailand

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KLRTC VI: INTEGRATED URBAN PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre will continue on the success of its fifth training course with the upcoming KLRTC VI on "Integrated Urban Planning for Sustainable Urban Management" to be held from 4 – 11 September, 2005.

KLRTC VI will address key emerging issues for cities in the Asia-Pacific Region including environment protection and development, urban finance, urban transportation, public-private partnerships, millennium development goals, and a KLRTC flagship topic of "knowledge management".

Meticulously planned study visits are designed to optimise the participants learning experience and understanding through first hand interactions and discussions on site. The larger objective of the study visits is to facilitate the creation of action plans for local implementations by participants. Expected follow up after the Course will include city-to-city cooperation.

Furthermore, guest speakers and participants will share their city’s experiences and lessons learnt. These include examples of good/best practices in various disciplines of sustainable urban management and case studies of the same. The participants gain valuable experience throughout the experience and information of other cities in the case studies.

Urban managers and practitioners, academicians and professionals deal with urban sustainability, civil society groups are highly encouraged to attend.

Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre (KLRTC) is a joint initiative launched in 2003 by CITYNET, UNITAR, Kuala Lumpur City Hall, UNDP, Veolia Environment that aims to strengthen local government’s capacity to deal with various disciplines of sustainable urban management and case studies of the same. The participants gain valuable experience throughout the experience and information of other cities in the case studies.

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