Title of the Campus: “Innovation, Identity And Designing Of Intermediate Cities For The City We Need”
Organizer(s) Names: International Union Of Architects (UIA)
Partner Organization(s): Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB)
Date and Location: Thursday, 9th November 2017 to Saturday, 11th November 2017 / IAB CENTRE. Plot-11, Road-7, Block-E Agargaon, Sher-e-Banglanagar Dhaka-1207 / Bangladesh
Urban Thinkers Campus in figures:

Executive summary:
In line with the call of World Urban Campaign (WUC), Urban Thinkers Campus Dhaka 2017 “Innovation, Identity and Designing of Intermediate Cities for The City We Need” was organized by International Union of Architects (UIA) and hosted by Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB), at IAB Centre Dhaka, Bangladesh from 9-11 November 2017. UTC DHAKA 2017 was conceived as a platform for critical dialogue exchange between urban researchers, professionals, civil society actors and decision-makers who believe that urbanization can lead to positive city urban growth. The Campus manifested to bring together experts who aim to realize the goals of New Urban Agenda and agree on the development of intermediate cities.

The three day campus was focused on design ideology and development management of intermediate cities. Intermediate cities are of high relevance at this time of urbanization as not only are they a transition between rural and urban areas but also their compact size promotes opportunity of effective governance and better quality of life.

The campus was inaugurated by Minister for Planning Mustapha Kamal MP, with a key note speech by Dr. A Atiq Rahman, Environmental Scientist, Director, Bangladesh Centre for Advance Studies (BCAS) and 2008 Champion of the Earth award recipient on “The City We Need” focusing on Bangladesh vulnerabilities and Dhaka as a case study. IAB Past President Ar. Mubasshar Hussein welcomed the house and introduction speech given by current IAB President Kazi Golam Nasir. UIA Presidents good wishes note was conveyed by UIA council member Ishtiaque Zahir. Inauguration concluded with the vote of thanks from IAB secretary general Qazi M Arif. Day two comprised of the technical sessions, a workshop and a plenary. Two parallel sessions consisting of four high-level round tables with distinguished members of our society explored real issues & solutions of designing intermediate cities through their paper presentations and discussions. Also the round tables were:

- Session1- Good Governance & Capacity Buildign chaired by Ar. Mubasshar Hussein and key speakers were Josep Maria Llop Chair UNESCO Chair,UIA-CIMES Spain, Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury,
Session 2 - Climate, Resilience & Infrastructure chaired by Ar. Dr. Ishrat Islam with key speakers Morana M. Stipisic, Adjunct Assistant Professor Columbia University, USA, Dr. Md. Khairul Islam, Director WaterAid, Bangladesh and Dr. Saleemul Huq Director, ICCCAD.

Session 3 - Compact Development & Urban-Rural Linkage chaired by Ar. Iqbal Habib and key speakers were Bernhard Mueller, Director Leibniz Institute, Germany, Dr. K Z Hossain Taufique, Director, Urban Development Directorate and Prof. Salim Rashid, Professor of Economics, University of Illinois.

Session 4 - Place Making and Sense of Identity chaired by Ar. Dr. Adnan Morshed with key speakers Dr. Kazi Khaleed Ashraf, Director General Bengal Institute for Architecture and Landscape Settlement, Prof. Nazrul Islam, Professor, Centre for Urban Studies, and Prof. Dr. Akter Mahmud General Secretary, Bangladesh Institute of Planners.

On the second half of the day a base plan methodology workshop derived by UNESCO and UIA, a training on town planning moderated by an international expert, Josep Maria Llop took place engaging 40 participants. Consequently a plenary session prepared the drafting of Dhaka Declaration 2017.

On day three a half day site visit of two urban project at Narayangonj District and Shibpur, Narsingdi District with 30 and 15 participants respectively took place. At Narayangonj the main attraction for the urban thinker’s group was Baburail Canal. It is a restoration and regeneration project of the existing canal by Vitti Sthapati Brindo Ltd, which has reshaped Narayangonj city. Shibpur visit was facilitated by the public institution Urban Development Directorate (UDD) and Shibpur Municipality. The visit was planned around the development of recreational facilities around the Kalagachia River Bank. Narayangonj Mayor and Narsingdi’s MP were present at the respective sites engaging in dialogue with local people and Urban Lab exercises.

Parallel to the Urban Lab at Dhaka a focused dialogue for students of architecture took place at IAB Centre Dhaka between architect Rafiq Azam and Nahas Kalil explaining design principles.

End of the day the campus ended with the announcement of 'Dhaka Declaration 2017' by UIA council member Ishtiaque Zahir and endorsed by the Honourable Minister of Housing and Public Works of Government of People’s Republic of Bangladesh Mosharrof Hossain MP. The evening was welcomed with a speech by IAB President Ar. Kazi Golam Nasir and introduction of IAB activities by
Vice President Ar. Ehsan Khan, IAB Vice President Ar. Jalal Ahmed presented the summery of the sessions. Lastly the three day event came to an end with the vote of thanks by Ar. Shaila Joarde. Later in the evening, a mesmerizing cultural group performance was held, followed by a networking dinner.

Dhaka Declaration is proposed to ensure a three year commitment and resolutions from all stakeholders in developing and managing intermediate cities. The outcome is projected to be focused on the role of individual stakeholders in developing responsible urban environments. The Dhaka Declaration will be communicated to Habitat III to include the relevant issues in the New Urban Agenda and published at WUC 2018 in Kuala Lampur, Malaysia.

Introduction to the Campus:

UTC DHAKA 2017 was an initiative conceived as a platform for critical exchange between urban researchers, professionals, civil society actors and decision-makers who believe that urbanization can lead to positive urban transformations. The Campus manifested to bring together urban thinkers who aim to realize the goals of New Urban Agenda and agree on the development of intermediate cities. Hence in line with the call of World Urban Campaign (WUC), Urban Thinkers Campus Dhaka 2017 “Innovation, Identity and Designing of Intermediate Cities for The City We Need” was organized by International Union Of Architects (UIA) and hosted by Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB), held at IAB Centre Dhaka, Bangladesh from 9-11 November 2017.

Like Dhaka, other developing mega cities around the globe are facing major challenges in urban environment, city infrastructure, urban space quality, urban and local governance and management sectors. The development and management of the intermediate cities as a solution for rapid urbanization of the mega cities is one of the major issues addressed in the New Urban Agenda. Developing intermediate cities is the future of the development of mega cities. Typically the population of an intermediate city is between 50,000 to 1 million inhabitants. However, they are not only defined in terms of demographic size and their specific dimensions of size, but also based on the functions they perform, such as: their role in mediating flows, providing opportunity of effective
governance and better quality of life. Intermediate cities are the linkage between urban and rural area. The campus was an international multi-stake holder’s urban forum comprising the sixteen stake holders of New Urban Agenda. UTC Dhaka 2017 unified multi disciplinary individuals/organizations to engage in a dialogue under one platform.

Objective of the Campus:

Dhaka Campus was held with the following objectives in hope to decode a solution from national and international stakeholders regarding practical issues of development and management of intermediate cities-

1. Identification of prime concerns on Governance, Mobility, Affordability, Accessibility, Urban infrastructure, and lack of Public Spaces in mega cities and intermediate cities.
2. Understanding of the development, planning and regeneration of intermediate cities through public participation and new partnership.
3. Sharing of knowledge and ideas from similar situations in other best practices and ideas around the globe.
4. Exploit ideas of capacity building and holistic approach to strengthening local governance.
5. Formulation of a Framework for the implementation of ideas.

Structure of the Campus:

It was a three day event with parallel sessions where real issues & solutions of designing intermediate cities were examined through paper presentations and discussions. The campus started with a keynote speech from Dr. A. Atiq Rahman, Environmental Scientist, Director, Bangladesh Centre for Advance Studies (BCAS) and 2008 Champion of the Earth award recipient on day one. Followed by two parallel sessions comprising four high level round table with respected members of the society. The sub topics for the sessions were
Session1- Good Governance & Capacity Building
Session 2- Climate, Resilience & Infrastructure
Session 3- Compact Development & Urban-Rural Linkage
Session 4-Place Making and Sense of Identity
Summary of each session is discussed later in the report with the list of participants attached. Also a workshop on base plan methodology derived by UNESCO and UIA, a training on town planning moderated by an international expert, Josep Maria Llop engaging multi-stakeholders and public participation was on day two along with plenary sessions. Half day site visit to two urban project at Narayangonj District- population approximately 2 million, 15 km from city centre and Shibpur, Narsingdi District population approximately 2.8 million, 61.2 km from city centre followed by URBAN LAB on both sites was also part of the UTC Agenda of day three. Attached below is the program schedule of the UTC Dhaka 2017 Agenda. Each session concluded with few outcomes which have helped to set a road map to achieve the implementation goals of the New Agenda. The event ended with a ‘Dhaka declaration 2017’ endorsed by the Honourable Minister of Housing and Public Works of Government of People’s Republic of Bangladesh.

Summary of all session:

UTC Dhaka 2017 was primarily composed of four Round Table Discussion Sessions, each session is summarized below.

**Session#01: Good Governance And Capacity Building:**
This Session was chaired by Ar. Mubashar Hussain. There were three speakers; Josep Maria Llop, Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman and Prof. Md. Shakil Akther. Other discussants were Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Md. Akhtaruzzaman, Ar. Shah Alam Zahiruddin, Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam, Mayor Chapai Nawabganj Municipality, Dr. A.K.M Abul Kalam and Ar. Sudeep Sharma Paudyal. Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Principal Secretary Honorable Prime Minister, gave his concluding remarks on the overall discussion. Discussions included the following main points:
Local government commission can be formed headed by elected people’s representative to promote good governance and Transparency to minimize the conflict between different tiers of government bodies. Social justice, organizational reformation, decentralization, “re-municipalization” and “de-municipalization” are essential for good governance and capacity building which
can be achieved through people’s participation. Coordinated network of government bodies is essential emphasizing ‘One-stop services’.

**Session #2: Climate, Resilience & Infrastructure:**
This session was chaired by Prof. Ishrat Islam. Dr. Morana M. Stipsic and Dr. Md. Khairul Islam presented papers to initiate discussion in this session. The discussion session was participated by Prof. Mustafizur Rahman, Prof. Shabbir Ahmed, Prof. Tasneem Siddique, Ms. Ashrafunnahar Misti, Ar. Qazi M. Arif, Adv. Syeda Rezwana Hasan, Ar. Khadem Ali, Mr. Maruf Hossain, Ar. Prajwal Hada Pradhan and Mr. Kazi Liakot Ali.

1. Universal access to all infrastructure and city services needs to be ensured to uphold comprehensive inclusiveness.
2. All municipalities must have a vision and capacity to prepare plans considering their local climatic condition, identity, socio-economic context, culture and inclusion of “blue and green network’ to ensure sustainable, ecologically balanced and resilient communities through mainstreaming climate change and disaster management issues. These plans need to have legal empowerment through “gazette notification”.
3. National Budget must have due allocation for intermediate & small cities and ensure equity for districts with ‘District Based Budget’.
4. Importance must be given for data collection, research & training to achieve SDG goals and to ensure establishment of training cell in municipalities for peoples representatives and government officials.
5. The concept of ‘Resilient City' should be incorporated in Vision 2041. Special attention is needed for displaced people due to climate and disaster to meet their needs of housing civic amenities.

**Session #3: Compact Development, Urban-Rural Linkage:**
This Session was chaired by Ar. Iqbal Habib. There were three speakers; Dr. Bernhard Mueller, Dr. K Z Hossain Taufique and Prof. Salim Rashid. Discussant of this session were Mr. Mostafa Quaium Khan, Md. Nurullah, ADB Consultant, Dr. Muslehuuddin Hasan, Ar. Salma A. Shafi, CUS, Prof. Nasreen Hossain, Ms. Hasin Jahan, Ms. Qazi Baby, PDAP, Ar. Saiqua Bente Alam, DOA, M. Motaher Hossain and Mr. Khandaker Morshed.

1. Need Redefining intermediate cities in term of local perspective, objectives, connectivity, power and capacity rather than international definition. The solutions to achieve ‘the city we need’ are lying in intermediate cities with
due connectivity. Also due importance to be given to the concept of ‘ruralism' along with urbanism in the planning philosophy of these cities.

2. To ensure appropriate urban-rural linkage experts based planning must be substituted with identity based inclusive urbanism encompassing parameters like:

(a) Services provision and development
(b) Connectivity and cooperation
(c) Policy commitment, strategy and agenda

3. Enabling legal framework and due capacity building of Local government is prerequisite to any decentralization initiatives. Local government and people participation should be incorporated for compact city development including aspects like:
(a) Strategic concept
(b) Long term perspectives
(c) Commitment and patience
(d) Windows of opportunity
(e) Co-operation
(f) Contextual hierarchy should be prioritized while local

Session #4: Place Making & Sense Of Identity:
This Session was chaired by Dr. Adnan Morshed. There were three speakers: Dr. Kazi Khaleed Ashraf, Prof. Nazrul Islam, Dr. Akhter Mahmud. Discussant of this session were Dr. Sharifuddin Ahmed, Ar. Taimur Islam, Dr. Farida Nilufar, Artist Alak Roy, Ar. Selina Afroza, Prof. Sufi Mustafizur Rahman, Ar. A.S.M. Aminur Rahman

1. A vision based planning to be adopted for all cities and rural planning.
2. Include the Private sector in incentive based program to retain local geo-hydrological character
3. Ensure historic preservation by definitive and stringent policies free bureaucratic entanglements and profit motivated initiatives along with raising awareness among local people
4. Develop local design & planning guideline for ‘place’ making with due emphasis on local identity and character.
5. Due importance must be given to pedestrian prioritized ‘place making.'
Key outcomes:

The three-day event of UTC Dhaka 2017 created a platform for multi stakeholders to unite under one roof and start a dialogue with policy makers and government officials to share Government’s course of action for the development of intermediate cities in order to implement the points of New Urban Agenda. From the interactive Round Table sessions and Urban Labs critical comments on designing, intervention, process for successful implementation of New Urban Agenda has been suggested.

The above four sessions have been summarized to form the 'Dhaka Declaration 2017' below is the action plan in seven points of the implementation of New Urban Agenda goals.

1. Local government commission need to be formed headed by elected people’s representative to promote good governance and transparency. Enabling the commission to ensure legal framework, social justice, organizational reformation & decentralization targeting good governance and capacity building is essential. As to ensure people’s participation, coordinated network of government bodies for implementation of One-stop services must be enforced.

2. Redefining definition of intermediate cities in term of local perspective, objectives, connectivity, power and capacity rather than international labelling as it endorsed that the solutions to achieve ‘the city we need’ are lying in intermediate cities with due connectivity to that city.

3. All municipalities must have a vision and capacity to prepare plan considering their local climatic condition, identity, socio-economic context, culture and inclusion of “blue and green network’ to ensure sustainable, ecologically balanced and resilient communities through mainstreaming climate change and disaster management issues. These plans must have legal empowerment through “gazette notification”.

4. To ensure appropriate urban-rural linkage, ‘experts based planning approach' must be substantiated with identity based inclusive urbanism encompassing parameters like : (a) Services provision and development (b) Connectivity and cooperation (c) Policy commitment, strategy and agenda.
5. Universal access to all infrastructure and city services needs to be ensured to uphold comprehensive inclusiveness.

6. Ensure historic preservation by definitive and stringent policies free bureaucratic entanglements and profit motivated initiatives along with raising awareness among local people. Develop local design & planning guideline for ‘place’ making with due emphasis on local identity and character and importance must be given to pedestrian prioritized ‘place making.

7. The concept of ‘Resilient City’ should be incorporated in Vision 2041. National Budget must have due allocation for intermediate & small cities and ensure equity for districts with ‘District Based Budget’. Due importance must be given for data collection, research and training to achieve SDG goals.

Conclusion & way forward:

UTC DHAKA 2017, the second event of Urban Thinkers Campus was held in Dhaka. However the three day event was the first of its kind where multi stake holders were facilitated under one roof professionals. UTC DHAKA 2017 has created a platform for all individual stakeholders of the civil society to view their opinion for “The City We Need”. The campus has brought forward the need for bridging the gap between the policy makers and the stake holders in terms of development of intermediate cities for a positive urban growth. Relevance of intermediate cities as the life line of Mega Cities have been addressed through the dialogue, not only are they a transition between rural and urban areas but also their compact size promotes opportunity of effective governance and better quality of life crucially important for urban growth. Also the campus has given opportunity to share and engage in dialogue with international experts in terms of different aspects of monitoring and development of urban growth. This declaration is a commitment for a three year road map endorsed by the Honourable Minister of Housing and Public Works of Government of People’s Republic of Bangladesh. The Dhaka Declaration will be communicated to Habitat III to include the relevant issues in the New Urban Agenda and published at WUC 2018 in Kaula Lampur, Malaysia.
Recommendations:

Dhaka Declaration 2017 is proposed to ensure commitments and resolutions from all stakeholders in developing and managing intermediate cities. The outcome is projected to be focused on the role of individual stakeholders in developing responsible urban environments. Therefore the 'National Habitat Committee' lead by Urban Development Directorate, UDD, and Bangladesh Urban Forum, are the platforms with institutional capacity for advocating and monitoring the outcome in Dhaka Declarations and the commitment of the government in national policy making and strategy development process for the implementation of the SDG goals. Hence there is no alternative but to revive the activities of these platforms with constant supervision of UN Habitat and professional institutes. The event has ensured that all participants have a view of the city they need, hence such events in the future would ensure the commitments of Dhaka Declarations to be implemented. Also UDD and local governments are designing masterplans for many small urban centres, it is essential that these are done in a participatory process with the local habitats in order for the cities to sustain in long term.

Monitoring & Reporting:

- The action plan has indicated key areas for implementation of SDG policies for development of intermediate cities. In order to determine the intended outcomes are being achieved and any modification required for the accurate strategy development a monitoring plan is recommended with regular participation/organization of such events. As the declaration has been endorsed by high government official it should be given priority for policy making of SDG goals but however only National Habitat Committee can monitor and facilitate the strategies for the action plan. Therefore it is essential that the Committee is revived and takes responsibility for the monitoring and reporting of the commitments from the campus to national and international bodies.
UTC Dhaka Declaration 2017 endorsed by the state minister would publish as an official document and communicated it to Habitat III to include the relevant issues in the New Urban Agenda and published at WUC 2018 in Kaula Lampur, Malaysia. National Habitat Committee would be responsible for follow up/ arrange (reporting) regular activities for progress of the implementations of Dhaka Declaration and SGD policies. Also representatives would attend the upcoming WUC Campaign to share the outcomes with other WUC partners.

National Habitat Committee would be responsible for all communications of the results of the campus to international and local authorities. Also follow up regularly for such events. The committee along with respective UIA representative would also be responsible for the Progress Forum in 5 years and report back to UN-Habitat.

---

**UTC key speakers:**

1. Josep Maria Llop, UNESCO CHAIR, and the international program of work of the UIA (International Union of Architects), Spain
2. Prof. Salim Rashid, Professor of Economics, University of Illinois, Bangladesh
3. Prof. Nazrul Islam, Professor, Centre For Urban Studies (CUS), Bangladesh
4. Dr. Akhter Mahmud, General Secretary, Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP), Bangladesh
5. Morana M. Stipisic, Columbia University, Associate AIA, United States
6. Bernhard Mueller, Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER), Technische Universität Dresden, Germany
7. Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Principal Secretary, GoB, Bangladesh
8. Dr. Kazi Khaleed Ashraf, Director General, Bengal Institute of Architecture, Landscape Settlements, Bangladesh
9. Hossain Zillur Rahman, Executive Chairman, Power And Participation Research Centre (PPRC), Bangladesh
10. Prof. Shakil Akther, Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, BUET Bangladesh
11. Dr. Khairul Islam, Country Director, WaterAid Bangladesh, Bangladesh
12. Dr. K Z Hossain Taufique, Director, Urban Development Directorate, Bangladesh.

List of participants:

Participants list

List of organisations represented:

List of Organizations and Partners Groups Represented
1. Department Of Architecture, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology , BUET
2. Department of Urban and Regional Planning, URP, BUET
3. Khulna University, KU
4. Department of Architecture, Government of Bangladesh
5. Urban Development Directorate, UDD
6. Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk)
7. Dhaka south city corporation, DSCC
8. Dhaka north city corporation, DNCC
9. Narayngonj city corporation, NCC
10. Sonaimuri Municipality, Noakhali
11. World Vision
12. Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, BAPA
13. Water Aid
14. Water & Sanitation For The Urban Poor , WSUP
15. United Nations Development Programme ,UNDP
16. Participatory Development Action Program (PDAP)/ Hairu Commission
17. Caritas-BD
18. Work For Better Bangladesh Trust, WBB
19. Un-Habitat
20. Bangladesh Urban Forum, BUF
21. Urban Study Group, USG
22. Bengal Institute for Architecture, Landscapes and Settlements
23. Women With Disabilities Development Foundation, WDDF
24. Municipality Association Of Bangladesh, MAB
25. Woman Architects, Engineers And Planners Association, WAEPA
26. Sustainable & Renewable Energy Development Authority, SREDA
27. Bangladesh Institute Of Planners, BIP
28. Ahsanullah University Of Science & Technology, AUST
29. North-South University, NSU
30. American International University of Bangladesh (AIUB)

List of partner groups represented:

1. Research and Academia.
2. Local and Subnational Authorities.
5. Foundations and philanthropies.
6. Women
7. Professionals.
8. Persons with disabilities.

List of countries represented:

1. Bangladesh
2. Germany
3. Spain
4. United States of America
5. Nepal
Weblinks to key Social Media posts:

- Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/UTCdhaka2017/](https://www.facebook.com/UTCdhaka2017/)

UTC Videos:

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1DEo8TUgPl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1DEo8TUgPl)
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-kZRU8al9c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-kZRU8al9c)
- [https://www.facebook.com/IArchBD/videos/1681539791896964/](https://www.facebook.com/IArchBD/videos/1681539791896964/)
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNnhfrvfplM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNnhfrvfplM)