

**General Framework of
The Symposium on “Urban Development: Theory vs Practical Experiences”**

26-24 Mat 2010, Marrakech, Morocco

I. Introduction:

Cities in general, and the Arab cities in particular, face difficult challenges, including the increasing population growth rate, resulting in an increasing demand for housing and other essential needs of public services, healthy environment and employment opportunities. In this regard, city administrations have tried to address the emerging conditions through development plans which have not been integrated into each other. However, the high rate of population increase in addition to the urban growth in many Arab cities in general and the Arab capitals in particular, has exceeded - in many cases - the expectations of those plans. In addition, ability of these cities to develop policies and identify future directions that can increase their housing capacity and enable them to develop the facilities, services and improve the investment movement, has been crippled due to lack of coordination and integration of efforts among various stakeholders.

To avoid such negative issues, this symposium is keen to present and discuss the problems and challenges facing local authorities and municipalities, and to propose solutions and take advantage of the international, regional and local successful experiences.

II. Importance of the topic:

The importance of this subject of this symposium comes from the need to identify the nature of the problems and challenges facing the urban development in the Arab cities and the methods of their treatment, as well as to identify the methods and plans of development and to share success stories.

III. Objectives:

The symposium aims, in general, to share experiences and to identify the scientific developments in the field of urban planning at its different levels and to understand how modern technologies can be used in this field. Accordingly, the immediate objectives of the symposium can be determined are as follows:

- Highlighting the importance of the adoption of integrated urban development strategies.
- Reviewing the contemporary theoretical models in urban development strategies.
- Exchanging expertise and experiences of various cities in the preparation of urban development plans as well as the lessons learned from such experiences.
- Evaluating the practices and experiences of cities in the area of development, and identifying cases of success, shortcomings and treatment potentials.

IV. Symposium themes:

1. Housing sector:

We mean by housing here its broad meaning, including all components that overlap with and complement each other, with the final outcome of the provision of housing that fulfills the social, cultural, biological, economic, environmental, humanitarian and recreational and aesthetic needs of people.

2. Transportation sector:

The invention of car in the nineteenth century has radically changed the urban planning. Inventions then followed one another with the advancement of science and technology, leading to the emergence of new means of transportation, such as subways and trams, to accommodate the growing numbers of passengers and mass transit. Human genius still aspires to more inventions in the field. In order for these modes of transport to work efficiently and meet human needs, locomotives tunnels were built, tram rails were extended and roads were constructed in a hierarchical graduation, according to population density, taking into account all environmental aspects and safety of passengers

3. Utilities sector :

This sector constitutes the backbone of the life in any urban society, and it is essential for daily life activities. The lack, or even the brief interruption, of which can disrupt people's lives. These utilities include electric connections, water, sanitation, telecommunications such telephone and the Internet, social services etc...

4. Environmental sector :

Man in nature is a consumer of materials, especially the organic ones, in large quantities, were a small community that does not exceed several thousand people can leave wastes estimated at thousands of tons per day. If such wastes are not properly disposed of, they will cause a health disaster. On the other hand, and to balance or minimize the negative effect of these organic materials and solid wastes of which buildings are constructed, man established parks and planted trees along roads and between buildings to protect himself from the harmful discharges generated by urban life activities and to act, at the same time, as a lung, absorbing the toxins and reducing the their negative effects. He also enacted legislation and established laws and regulations to preserve the rights of children, the disabled and the families to access these areas easily.

This includes roads, public places and places for advertising and promotion, especially those using optical technology.

5. Heritage Preservation Sector:

Many Arab cities are famous of urban and architectural heritage spanning thousands of years. However, due to the factor of time, dry climate and negligence much of this valuable heritage vanished.

Therefore, it is time to preserve those ancient places in such cities, through their urban and architectural modernization and by revitalizing them and making them a magnet for tourists for economic, social, touristic and recreation purposes.

V. Field visits:

The program includes field visits to development projects at the national, regional and local levels.

VI. Exhibition accompanying the symposium:

An exhibition will be held on the sidelines of the symposium to show national, regional and local development strategies and plans.

VII. Beneficiaries of the symposium:

Specialists and those who are interested in the issues of urban development, including administrators, engineers, technicians and officials of urban planning, services and facilities.

VIII. Participants with Research and working papers:

Specialists in the field of urban development, from universities, government agencies, municipalities and specialized international organizations and the private sector will take part in the provision of scientific material and discussion sessions management.

IX. Symposium implementation method:

Keynote speakers

Lectures and working papers

Panel discussion in which specialists and officials as well as the audience will take part

X. Language:

Arabic will be the basic language of the symposium program and translation of research and papers presented in the symposium will be available also in English.

XI. Venue and Date

The symposium will be held in Conference Palace the city of Marrakech, Morocco.

The symposium will be held during the period from 26 to 24 May 2010.

XII. Organizers:

1. Directorate of Formation of Administrative and Technical Cadres - Directorate General for Local Communities - Ministry of Interior, Rabat, Morocco
2. Arab Urban Development Institute (Arab Towns Organization)

XIII. Travel, accommodation and visas :

- Travel and accommodation costs will be borne by the participant or the organization he represents.
- Participants, whose presence requires them to get a visa, should coordinate and communicate early with the concerned parties in the Directorate of Formation of Administrative and Technical Cadres - Directorate General for Local Communities - Ministry of Interior, Rabat, Morocco.

XII. Registration

- Registration shall be made by filling the attached registration form.

XV. Communications:

- All correspondence shall be sent to the following address:
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