



A Regional Conference on  
**URBAN REVITALIZATION  
and GOVERNANCE in ASIA**

**Experiences, Trends and Directions**

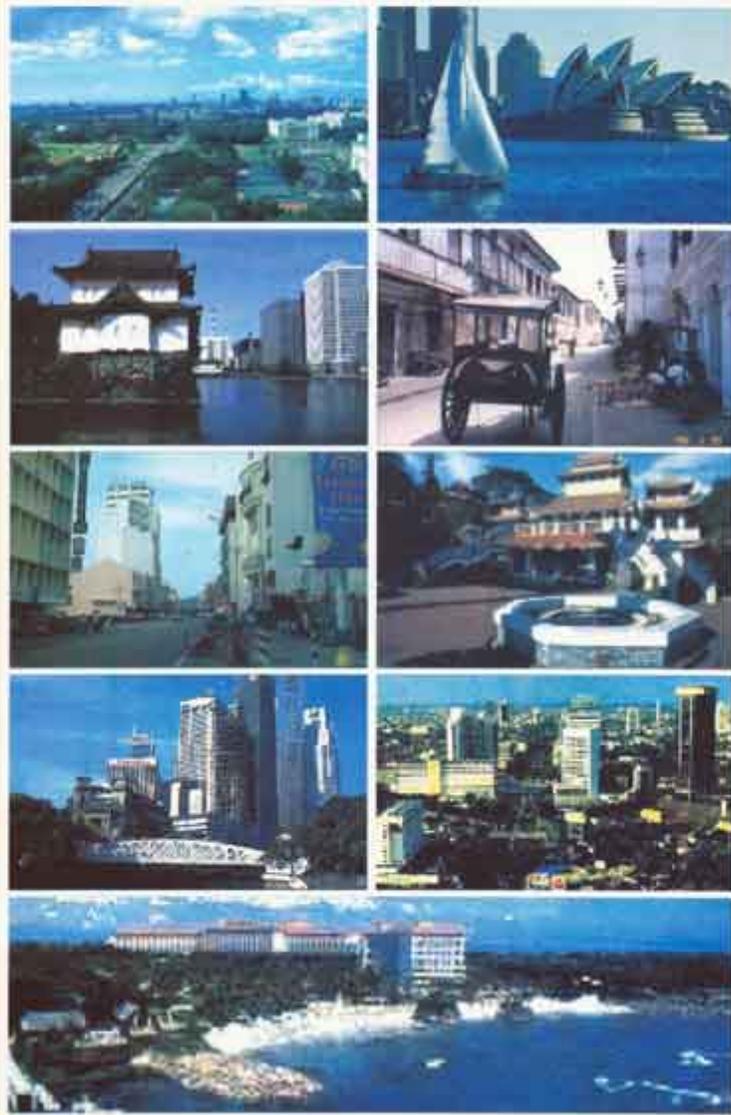
Conveners:  
**University of the Philippines  
School of Urban and  
Regional Planning**

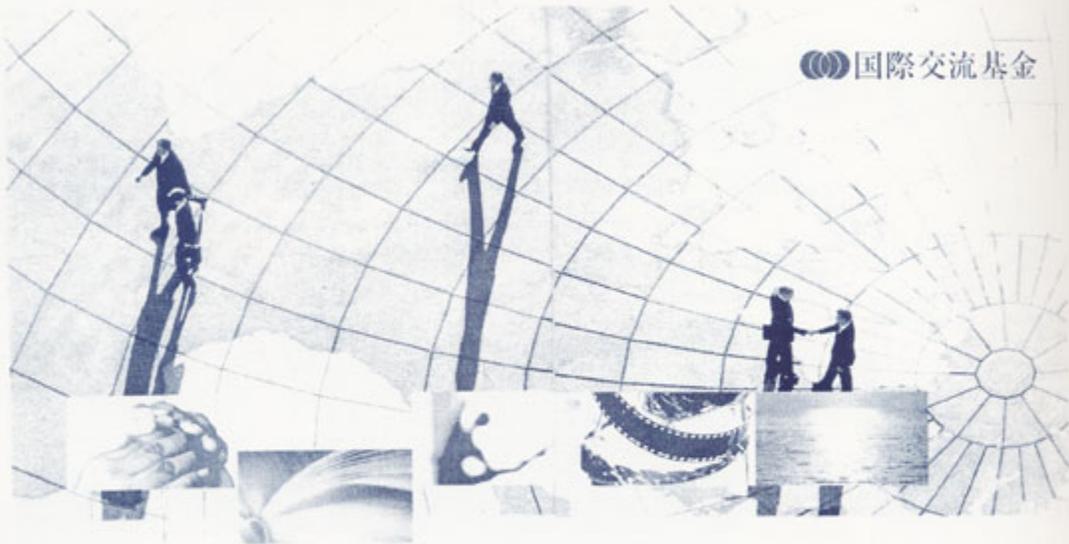
**Philippine Institute  
of Environmental  
Planners, Inc.**

Supported by the UNDP  
and other partner agencies

**October 24-25, 2002**

**Shangri-La  
EDSA Plaza Hotel  
Mandaluyong City  
The Philippines**





The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 as a special legal entity under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the purpose of promoting mutual understanding and friendship on the international scene.

It was a specialist organization for international cultural exchange in Japan, and it carries out a broad variety of cultural-exchange programs with personnel exchange as its basic premise, ranging from such academic pursuits as Japanese studies and Japanese-language education to the arts, publication, audio-visual media, sports and general life culture.

Its activities are financed by the operation profits, on-government endowments, aid from the government (including the ODA budget) and funding and donations from the private sector.

# The Japan Foundation

The Japan Foundation carries out these types of programs:

## People

- 1 Overseas Dispatch of persons
- 2 Invitations to Japan

## Learning

- 3 Japanese-Language Education Overseas
- 4 Japanese Studies Overseas

## Art

- 5 Arts Exchange
- 6 Performing Arts Exchange

## Media

- 7 Publication Exchange
- 8 Audio-Visual Exchange

## Region

- 9 The Center for Global Partnership
- 10 The Asia Center
- 11 Japan-Europe Exchange

## Others

- 12 Others

## A REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON URBAN REVITALIZATION and GOVERNANCE IN ASIA

### *Experiences. Trends and Directions*



The presence of a portion of the world in the background symbolizes the Asian region and the regional character of the conference.

Many districts that were once bustling with economic activity throughout Asia have experienced a tremendous decline for varied reasons, resulting in poverty, breakdown of services, and urban blight. This grim stage of urban decay is depicted by the gray silhouette of the city skyline. Many cities in Asia, however, have initiated programs in urban renewal and urban redevelopment, and their achievements have inspired others to attempt similar programs. This hope that can reverse the tide of urban degradation is represented by the brightness of the sun rising in the horizons of both the world and the city skyline.

Many of the Asian success stories can be attributed to dynamic policymakers, politicians, administrators, and managers. Good leadership and governance are only as good as the people they serve and work with, and it is in this context that the **three human figures** in the foreground are shown representing the leader who is flanked by his constituents. The **joining of their hands** symbolizes their working in unison as well as their ultimate triumph.

The **three arrows** that orbit around the world represent the experiences, trends, and directions in urban revitalization and governance that will be shared and reflected upon in the conference.

Logo design by EnP. Mike Tomeldan

# message



MALACAÑAN PALACE  
MANILA



**M**y warmest greetings to the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners (PIEP) and the University of the Philippines' School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP) as you hold your Regional Conference on October 24-25, 2002 at the Shangri-la EDSA Plaza Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

At no other time has the need for urban renewal and proper management been most direly felt by our highly urbanized cities and municipalities than today when the country is literally growing by the minute. As more people flock to these places for social and economic betterment, we must also prepare ourselves to be saddled with multitude social problems like poverty, congestion, homelessness, pollution and transportation.

It is on this compelling note that the relevance of this event's theme: "Urban Revitalization and Governance in Asia – Experiences, Trends and Directions," finds its meaning in the hands of our professional planners, policy makers, administrators and developers who are entrusted the formidable task of directing the physical and social growth of our urban areas.

I am truly happy that you have initiated this working conference wherein urban planners and analysts from other parts of the Asian region are also given the opportunity to share their experiences and learn from each other in the administration of their respective cities.

I share your enthusiasm in drawing up fresh strategies that will guide and further enhance the transformation of our urbanized cities and municipalities into engines of growth and progress thereby, ensuring a better quality of life for our constituents.

Congratulations and MABUHAY!

  
GLORIA MACAPAGAL - ARROYO

## message



**M**y warmest greetings and sincerest congratulations to the officers and members of the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners (PIEP) and the UP School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP) as they hold the 1st Regional Conference on URBAN REVITALIZATION and GOVERNANCE in ASIA - Experiences, Trends and Directions. I welcome another opportunity for UNDP to cooperate with the SURP in our long-term search for sustainability in managing human settlements.

At UNDP we believe this Conference is significant in this day and age of increasing urbanization, as it paves the way for improved relations and interactions between and among the various stakeholders in urban development and governance. The sharing of ideas and experiences, documentation of good practices and lessons gained from efforts in urban revitalization, not only in the Philippines but from all over Asia. Will open new avenues for governments, development agencies and other stakeholders in formulating new policies, strategies, approaches and mechanisms to manage the various aspects of urban revitalization.

I wish to encourage the environmental planners to continue their efforts as visionaries, facilitators and implementors of a sustainable approach to urbanization, and to build on the conclusion of the ten year review of Agenda 21 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It is our hope that lessons learned on this Conference shall be widely disseminated and applied as the planners work with local government units, estate developers and grass roots communities in building better human settlements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terrence R. Jones'.

Terrence R. Jones  
Resident Representative  
United Nations Development Programme

## message



Housing and  
Urban Development  
Coordinating Council

Congratulations to the officers and members of the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners on the holding of the 1st Regional Conference on Urban Revitalization and Governance in Asia - Experiences, Trends and Directions .

This conference is timely as it presents a venue for discussing landmarks, lessons, and good practices in the housing and urban development field. This becomes even more necessary as we continue to face the challenge of providing homes for our countrymen and maintaining sustainable urban development. I hope the outputs of the Regional Conference will be widely disseminated and applied by the planners as they work with local government units, estate developers and even grassroots communities in building better settlements.

You as environmental planners are in a special position to make this possible as you bring together your diverse skills, talents and disciplines as we build more sustainable communities.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!



Sec. Michael T. Defensor  
Chairman

# message



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Q.C.

**M**igration to urban areas to seek livelihood opportunities has put pressure on limited urban land resources. In Metro Manila alone, many families have become informal dwellers for lack of means to legally acquire space for their abode. This situation also resulted in problems of increasing pollution on land, water and air and in providing the basic needs of the populace. There is a need to revitalize the urban areas to address the problem of widespread blight and poverty.

The Regional Conference on Urban Revitalization and Governance is indeed relevant to the present challenges in urban management in the Asian region. The sharing of experiences and best practices in urban renewal, regeneration and revitalization of urban areas in the Philippines and Asia will inspire the participants to adopt and even improve what is applicable to their respective situations. I hope this forum will attain its objective of forging multi-country and multi-sectoral partnership towards sustaining urban revitalization in the context of effective urban governance.

I congratulate the University of the Philippines School of Urban and Regional Planning (UP-SURP), the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners (PIEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and other partner agencies for the efforts they have exerted to make this forum possible.

I wish you success in this endeavor.

  
Ramon J.P. Puno  
Undersecretary for Environment  
and Natural Resources Operations

# message



Office of the Chancellor  
University of the Philippines  
Diliman, Quezon City



**A**s head of the Diliman campus of the University of the Philippines, I take pride in congratulating the sponsors of this regional conference namely, our very own School of Urban and Regional Planning of UP Diliman, and the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners, Inc., the self-regulating body of professional planners in the country.

The conference theme "Urban revitalization and governance in Asia: Experience, trends and future directions" is a bit overdue. For already we see many of our towns and cities, which were designed and built in accordance with standards of bygone eras, servicing the requirements of modern-day urban lifestyles. Necessarily, informal, unplanned and uncoordinated efforts are being made to retrofit the old built form to function as modern human habitat. The result has been an unsatisfactory jumble of pragmatic adaptations and improvisations bereft of any consideration for historical and cultural sensibilities.

Nonetheless, the conference theme is still timely, in the light of the global and local agenda for the 21st century to promote, among others, the development of more sustainable systems of human settlements. Urban renewal, redevelopment, or revitalization contributes to sustainability in that it leads to efficient utilization of urban space by preventing urban blight and obsolescence. Moreover, urban revitalization is an antidote to unmitigated urban sprawl and helps reduce premature conversion of agricultural lands in the fringes of cities and towns and thereby ensuring long-term food security.

I therefore commend the organizers of this conference for bringing to public consciousness a subject of utmost importance. I am positive the participants: urban policy makers and city managers, property owners and developers, planning practitioners and academics, students and everyone else interested in urban planning and governance, will benefit immensely from the wealth of ideas and experiences that will be shared in this 2-day conference.

I hope the insights gained from experiences shared will be put to use towards making-or-remaking-our cities into more efficient, livable and sustainable human settlements.

  
Emerlinda R. Roman  
Chancellor



## message

School of Urban and Regional Planning  
University of the Philippines  
E. Jacinto Street, Diliman, Quezon City 1101

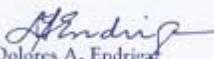


On behalf of the co-sponsoring institution, the University of the Philippines School of Urban and Regional Planning, I am happy to greet the participants, guests, paper readers, patrons and everyone else involved in the holding of this regional conference on "Urban Revitalization and Governance in Asia".

As an institution intimately involved in the education of planners and in the professionalization of planning, we at the UP-SURP share with the professional planners, planning students and academics the excitement of taking part in this rare experience. Planning, both as an academic discipline and as a profession, is of recent vintage in the Philippines. Philippine planning has been concerned with the "fundamentals" and has seldom ventured into more challenging areas. By sinking deeper roots into the rich but unexplored field of urban revitalization and governance, Philippine planning is now seeking after greater maturity and relevance.

The subject of urban revitalization is decidedly standard fare among planners in western industrialized countries. Understandably, planning literature is replete with western country experiences and examples. But by limiting the geographical scope of this conference to Asia, we, the organizers hope that, beyond the expressed objectives of this conference, a more enduring outcome will emerge; that someday, academics and scholars sifting through the conference documentation will discover a philosophy, a theory, or an approach to the universal problems not only of urban blight and obsolescence, but also of social, economic and even cultural "poverty" - that is essentially, if not uniquely, Asian. And planning literature will only be the richer for it.

Welcome to the conference.

  
Dolores A. Endrig  
Dean, UP-SURP

# About the Conference

The SCHOOL OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING of the University of the Philippines at Diliman, and the PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNERS, Inc. (PIEP), are both pleased to announce the holding of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Conference on URBAN REVITALIZATION AND GOVERNANCE IN ASIA – Experiences, Trends and Directions, on October 24 to 25, 2002 at the Garden Ballroom, EDSA Shangri-la Plaza, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

This unprecedented Conference, which is being jointly organized by the country's premier and pioneering academic institution on urban and regional planning on the one hand, and the only national professional organization that is duly accredited by the Professional Regulations Commission to represent the interests of licensed environmental planners on the other, brings together in an interactive forum the talents and services of international and local experts, national and local government officials, professional planners, businessmen, civil society advocates and the urban poor, for them to share, exchange and learn from each other's ideas and experiences on the problems of blighted, congested, neglected and deteriorating old inner urban centers and historical and cultural areas in the light of increasing pressures of urbanization and

homelessness in the country and in the region.

The organizers believe that the conduct of such Conference is both urgent and important, in the light of continuing competing and conflicting demands between and among urban growth/expansion, food security, environmental protection and heritage conservation, investment and tourism promotion and security of tenure of homeless and underprivileged, among many other issues and concerns. They have initially tried to turn to local academic and practical materials and found that available information, expertise and resources are extremely limited. On the other hand, they have observed that many of our neighbors have been able to successfully address these concerns in a sustainable manner.

The Conference highlights the basic principle that successful urban revitalization requires the congruence of three basic elements of human settlements people, place and partnership. These basic elements also lie at the heart of the celebrations of Habitat Month that are undertaken in October of every year.

The organizers agree that urban revitalization is a complex and multi-faceted undertaking, and that it is easy to fall into the trap of reducing it to more visible and manageable problems, such as

squatting along railroad tracks, squatting inside historical buildings, traffic, sidewalk vendors, flooding and garbage. All of these need attention, yes, but the organizers believe that present solutions have been piece-meal and palliative at best, and that what is needed is a strategic, comprehensive and holistic approach to the problem.

Urban revitalization indeed involves many components (legal and policy instruments, community issues, infrastructure challenges, and financial requirements) that have to be considered. However, they are also confident that it will work if it is done in phased small and manageable bite size pieces within the context of the larger picture of urban management and governance. This will require partnership with, as well as working of, for and by the people affected by the project.

Thus, the framework of the conference is that urban revitalization can indeed be a viable and sustainable urban development strategy as an alternative to new urban expansion; but this can only be possible if it incorporates the following norms of good governance - equity, access, civic engagement and responsibility, security, transparency and accountability.

Given the magnitude and complexity of the problems sought to be addressed by urban revitalization, the Organizers realize that one conference will not be sufficient to tackle and resolve all of these issues and concerns. Thus, they are starting small - with the idea of generating awareness of the problems, scanning the environment, exploring possibilities of cooperation and assistance, and

generating an inventory of information or knowledge and resource base that could be used as basis for future follow-up conferences and other network based activities.

With the interactive format of the Conference, the Organizers believe that substantial groundwork along the lines heretofore discussed will already have been accomplished.

Internationally, the Conference is supported by the United Nations Development Programme, the UN Center for Human Settlements (Habitat), the Japan Foundation, the Eastern Regional Organization for Planning and Housing, the ASEAN Association for Planning and Housing, and the Asia and West Pacific Network for Urban Conservation. Here, the event is supported by the Philippine Urban Forum, the Heritage Conservation Society of the Philippines, the League of Cities of the Philippines, the Private Sector Consultative Council for Shelter, the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council and its attached key shelter agencies, the Philippine Council for Urban Governance, the Department of Interior and Local Governments, the National Historical Institute, the National Commission for Culture and Arts, the Local Government Academy, the Urban Research Consortium and many other government, private and non-government organizations.