

A Study on Urban Issues and Improvement Tasks to Be Complied in Developing Countries

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1. Background and Purpose

In recent years, with the rapid economic growth and concentration of the population into urban areas, unregulated development has been conducted in urban areas in developing countries, so that their governments are under the pressure of necessity to develop an adequate operation of urban planning systems. Not all of the developing countries, however, always have enough technologies in the urban planning project. Therefore, in this context, Japan, with rich experience in urban planning, is expected to transfer its technology and know-how on such a planning.

While on the other hand an urban planning is indispensable for forming an excellent urban area, it unfortunately controls the rights of residents, and therefore great care must be taken in a large number of points, prior to the introduction of the urban planning. In addition, for the introduction of the urban planning in the countries where the systematic planning has not been formulated, it is necessary to provide the nation with an updated advance explanation and information in terms of its operation so that the nation can deepen its understanding.

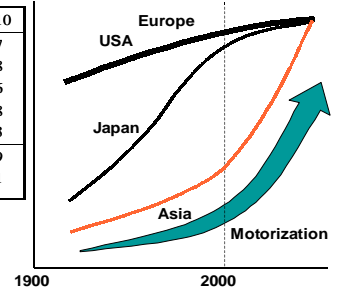
Based on the above-mentioned situation, tasks required at the time of technical transfer of the urban planning into the countries concerned have been arranged so that smooth introduction of urban planning may be performed in developing countries in response to requests arising from developing countries.

Urbanization Process in Asia

• urban population (%)

	1970	1990	2010
Thailand	13	23	37
Indonesia	17	31	48
Philippines	33	43	56
Malaysia	27	43	58
Vietnam	-	19	23
Japan	71	77	79
UK	89	89	91

- motorization
- industrialization
- economic growth



Traffic Congestion in Development Countries



2. Details of Survey

Issues and tasks related to the urban planning have been arranged, based on the existing materials related to the urban planning in developing countries and interviews/questionnaires provided to Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) experts with long experience.

(1) Issues in Urban Planning in Developing Countries

a) Lack of urban planning system; lack of effectiveness

Most of the developing countries do not have systematic systems at the moment. In spite of the existence of related systems such as zoning ordinance and permission for development, organized operation is limited between these systems and master plan/feasible study which is an urban concept to be realized in the future through these systems.

b) Weak urban administration system; lack of solidarity between administrations

With a tendency in decentralization of authority, the number of local governments, which conduct the urban planning and land use planning by themselves, is increasing. Local governments, however, do not possess enough capability to implement a project covering the whole urban administration due to a lack of budget and deficiency in performance. In addition, noncompliance of the central government with the decentralization of authority prevents human resources

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from moving out of urban areas to local areas. As a result, planning is accomplished on an ad hoc basis, resulting in more complicated urban problems.

c) Insufficient urban infrastructure, which cannot comply with rapid urbanization

Under the condition that infrastructure improvements do not catch up with the rapid expansion of the urban area, underdevelopment of public transportation network in the outskirts in particular has been preventing the low-income urban worker group, which cannot respond to long-distance commuting, from moving out of the center of the city, thus, causing an urban problem in slums in the core zones of the city.

d) Less effective private large-scale development control

Metropolises are expanding in the acceleration of advancement in urbanization with remarkable economic development, and large-scale private development, conducted under the poor administrative development control, has formed unregulated urban areas, requiring a drastic measure.

e) Slum and urban sprawl problems

While on the other hand availability of housing sites is not catching up with vast demand, development control is not an effective working condition. Deterioration in transportation access has lowered functions in the center of the city and no redevelopment has been conducted, so that neither an update nor sophistication of urban functions has been achieved, causing urban decline and devastation in the center of the city.

f) Lack of finances and technologies

Financial resources for urban improvement are insufficient; to make the matters worse, human resources-related problems are present both in quantity and in quality.

(2) Tasks recommended in urban planning in developing countries

A wide range of compliances with hardware and software, including improvement of related law systems to implement urban planning projects, transfer of technology supporting them, and human resources development, is required. The following tasks are recommended: forming the institutional capacity to conduct them, securing the financial resources supporting them, and developing human resources. Prerequisites include improvements of urban planning systems and related law systems to be a security of practicability and establishment of the system to implement these organized operations. All those tasks are summarized as follows:

a) Prerequisite tasks

Arrangement and systematization of urban planning systems and related law systems

It is necessary to prepare rational yet systematic plans not only by arranging systems but also by linking these systems with, for example, the upper level planning, lower level planning, and related planning in construction.

b) Major tasks

Forming an administrative ability covering planning, implementation, and management in a package

Unless the technical guidance, which covers planning, implementation, and management in a package, is conducted, effective introduction of urban planning systems is very difficult.

Development control

In a large number of countries, private sectors are playing important roles as leaders for urban development, and the way of proper introduction of this development ability should be treated as a significant task for them to effectively lead this development ability.

Measures against slum and urban sprawl

The way to improve areas with density private properties or with slums is a current task.

c) Supportive tasks

Securing of financial resources

Urban improvement financial resources are limited in public. Propulsion of the urban improvement requires building such a system as to utilize the vitality of the private sector mainly undertaking responsibilities, absorb a part of development profits, and invest in new improvements. In addition, discussion for an increasing tax collection rate in current taxation system is necessary.

Information storage and human resources development

A capability to autonomously plan and implement smooth urban planning should be brought up for the building of institutional capacity. To achieve this purpose, systematic improvement of urban information and human resources development will be important tasks.