

Regional Policy Dialogue on Sustainable
Urbanization in South Asia
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Thimphu City at a glance

Area-26sqkm

Population-From 15000 to
130,000(40% of Nat. Urban &



TSP -9 Principles of Intelligent Urbanism

1. Balance with Nature
2. Balance with tradition
3. Conviviality
4. Efficiency
5. Human Scale
6. Opportunity matrix
7. Regional Integration
8. Balanced movement
9. Institutional integrity
10. Vision

Key Problem Areas

- Questionable capacity to absorb economically and socially, the young, educated migrants attracted to the capital
- Protecting the environmentally sensitive areas and resources in the face of land pressures
- Integrating the heritage into the evolving built environment
- Financing the development and operations and maintenance of physical infrastructure
- Providing housing and basic facilities for the poor in an inclusive and participatory approach
- Enhancing the capacities of the TCC to manage all the above tasks

Fundamental Strategies

- The fundamental strategies are mainly based on concerns such as:
- A capital city like Thimphu will grow! There is no escape from growth? How dense the city will be?
- Where in the city valley will the growth occur?
- What role will be assigned to the automobile?
- How will the domain of the pedestrian be preserved?
- What type of transport should be used?
- What are the relationships between land use, density, infrastructure networks and transport pattern?
- How much of the natural eco-system and the magnificent forests and paddy fields will we save in the process of growth?
- What are the carrying capacity of the eco-system and what are the thresholds beyond which disaster looms?
- To what extent can the cultural traditions and patterns of Bhutanese society be preserved?
- What are the hierarchies of places, which respond to the individual, friendship, households, neighborhood, communities and the public domain?.....etc

Fundamental Strategies

Decentralize growth

- Population growth in Thimphu is tempered through a policy commitment of the national government by declaring growth centers and service centers (BNUS, LGA)

Recognize growth

- Population is bound to spill over into the capital region. It makes sense to plan that growth to our advantage by identifying satellite centers, enhanced traditional settlements, and new growth areas – relatively close but far enough to maintain the green environment

Densification

- Significant area of the city must be retained as green land – urban life is socially richer in compact nodes and hubs

Transport oriented growth

- Within the city, new development must be concentrated within compact, medium and high-density nodes where transport stops will receive enough passengers to make public transport cost effective. An urban corridor protects the options of future generations to enhance the technology and speed of transport in the region and within the city proper.

Strategies-contd:-

Resource utilization

- By limiting the expanse of urban growth, the valley's land can be utilized instead of exploited. Land are categorized according to its soil type, slope aspects, to assess development suitability. Land are designated for conservation and protection according to the biomass cover, fauna and avifauna habitats, and as natural areas preserved for future generations.

Urban Precincts

- Unlike a 'zoning plan' which separates land uses and isolates activities, precincts bring compatible activities together in a manner which enriches life of the city. Precincts reflect our culture through delineation of areas dedicated to heritage and religious ceremonies; to traditional sports and to recreation; to trade and commerce; to governance; to urban villages etc. We have DCR to guide the public, regarding what can be done and what cannot be done in specific precincts

Public assets

- The city is filled with public, natural, religious and heritage assets. These are woven into the visual and open space systems of the plan. This will give a unique sense of place to the city.

Strategies contd:-

Defining the urban core

- The urban core gives life and character to the entire urban region. Pedestrianizing the Norzin Lam (the main street) and the side lanes will achieve human scale and a system of convivial places. The goal is to create a people-oriented, cozy town centre where youths, families, tourists and citizens can encounter a series of human scale experiences and interactions.

Facilitating access to shelter

- Government to become a facilitator of shelter development rather than a provider of housing units

Let it be!

- There must be a clear consensus regarding Thimphu's future and the

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_4736

