

ForUm Newsletter

Southeast Asian – German Network for Urban Future
Cagayan de Oro, December 2007

Review of Summer School Cambodia and more...



Summer School Participants took a pose at Angkor Thom
Summer School in Cambodia, October 2007

CONTENT

Page

1. Editorial

1

2. Thai Students in Malaysia

2

3. ...to me the Cambodia SS07 was like "Afsara"...

4

4. Urban Driving Forces

Workshop Report

5

Towards a conceptualisation of urban driving forces

7

5. Ideas about Future Cooperation

8

6. Upcoming Summer School in Thailand– Call for Papers

9

7. ForUm Participants in Cambodia

10

8. Pictorials

11

EDITORIAL



Coming from Conference in Cambodia on the first week of November was too tight before the opening of the Second Semester here in the Philippines.

November 1 is “All Souls Day” celebration for all those who have departed (and living) while November 2 is for “All Saints Day” - a commemoration of holiness.

These two events demand for all Catholics to remember their departed relatives – whether they have become saints or remained as spirits. This annual celebration is done through annual cleaning of the cemetery, prayers, candles and flower offerings. Others stay in memorial parks for vigil visitations of their departed relatives at their graveyards.

These celebrations are not too far from our discussions on the development of cities. As people matures, die and buried, so urban structures and spaces also die to give way to the development of cities. In their death, few infrastructures that remained are (“disputedly”) resurrected or preserved as “cultural heritages” while necessary non-material remnants are left on the behavior of people for them to be able to survive in the new situation – but these too are obliterated when new market-driven technologies that call for new ways of behaving and relating are introduced.

Funny. The analogy is morbid. But this is what the cities of Phnom Penh and Seam Reap represent. In Phnom Penh, traditional spaces and natural resources where people’s way of living and behaving were formed and developed are intentionally transformed into other uses in the name of “development.” People are also relocated and plucked out from their natural resources where they have carved their niches and are forced to adjust to a totally different relocation spaces and establishments. For those who remained in their niches, their mental map is in conflict with the new city landscape. In contrary, Seam Reap’s pace of urban development is in opposition with Phnom Penh. Here, petrified memories of the past are delicately preserved as it represents the country’s cultural heritage. Buffer zones along these areas are also well planned that urbanization processes may not interfere with the efforts of reviving the memories carved on sandstones. This preservation of acres of land where the memories of the golden age of Khmer rests may not be related to the urbanizing process on the nearby Tonle Sap lake which is one of the few free remaining vacant spaces where people can converge, live and carve new niches.

The situations and cases presented in the ForUm’s Summer School in Cambodia may be burdensome to ponder upon. But remembering the people we encountered, the lively participants to whom we have worked with and enjoyed their company, the organizers who laboured hard to showcase the concrete situations where theorizing could be anchored, the conferences were not too serious at all. We all learned so much while enjoying the unfolding of knowledge.

Noel Cornel Alegre

Capitol University, Philippines

International Collaboration/Activities

City Planning Students from Khon Kaen University, Thailand, Visited Kuala Lumpur, Putra Jaya, and Malaka

(Reported by Dr. Monsicha Bejrananda)



A group of students from KKU in KL.

Each year Master Program in Urban and Regional Planning from Khon Kaen University has set a field trip for graduate students to visit some of our neighboring countries in SE-Asia. This year, in August, we had a field trip to Kuala Lumpur, Putra Jaya, and Malaka. The whole group consists of 23 graduate students and faculties from Urban and Regional Planning Program and some from Department of Architecture. Thanks to IT technology and the very good connection of our ForUm network, I was able to contact Prof. Dr. Lee

Boon Thong at University of Malaya. Though he was very busy (as usual), he kindly offered us an excursion trip for one day in KL and the Klang Valley Corridor, certainly with him as our honorary guide. Also, with a brief lecture regarding the historical background and insight overview of KL urbanization and Klang Valley by Prof. Dr. Lee, the one-day trip was more than our expectation. We visited the historical center of KL, a squatter as well as the middle class area, and Petaling Jaya, Malaysia's first new town. On the way to Port Klang, we also had an opportunity to visit the royal capital of Selangor, and Klang. Our excursion trip ended with a boat ride through the mangrove swamp to Pulau Ketam or Crab Island, a quiet fishing village that is transforming to a new tourist place. The whole village, from what we saw, is built on the wood stilts similar to some fishing village in southern Thailand. Though the physical character of the island is interesting, the story of its transforming and its struggling to survive is more remarkable.

This field trip is usually a joint tentative program between Department of Architecture and Department of City Planning. During the last two years we have led students to Cambodia and Singapore. I believe that with a very good connection among us in FoRum Network, field trips to our neighboring countries in SE-Asia have more to come in the future. Finally, I have to thank Prof. Dr. Lee who promptly responded to my e-mail, though we only met once in Summer School in Jogjakarta, for his thoughtful trip and a warm welcome in KL. Solong 'til next time. Sawasdee Kha.

Dr. Mosicha Bejrananda



Visit a squatter area in KL, where those living here are not actually fit to the term “poor”?



Developing and demolishing in Malaka. When tourists come, you have to leave !

Wandering in the old town of Malaka



Prof. Lee and the group on Crab Island

To me the Cambodia SS 2007 was like AFSARA (heavenly dances)!

Anselmo B. Mercado
(your ever youngest partner-friend - BoyM)

We had a lot to share —
our presentations
on urbanization.
Amazing, we could never
stop learning about this
phenomenal wonder,
that keeps changing
the urban human landscape,
like the afsara dance movements,
never one and the same,
varied yet with coherence,
unpredictable, but flowing,
moving and fascinating.

We had a lot to share —
ourselves as persons
unique individuals from many nations.
Like children — candid, yet guarded,
joking, laughing, watching, observing,
opening to each other,
at a close range but from a distance,
as they say “so close yet so far away.”

Yes, we had a lot to share —
our song “Amigo, Amiga”
had said it all —
our experiences, our feelings,
the serious sessions,
the fun and lighter moments,
the countries we’d been to,
the countries we’re going to,
but most of all,
we had kept our focus,
perhaps our main driving force
to move us and our URBAN ForUm
moving,
getting us somewhere
achieving something.

Thank you my dear friends for everything,
and,
“until we meet again,
may God hold you in the the palm of His
hands.”



URBAN DRIVING FORCES (UDF)

Group Report on the workshop conducted on October 25, 2007 8:00-11:11 AM

The group was chaired by Prof. Lee Boon Thong of Malaysia. The members of the group were as follows: Dr. Anselmo B. Mercado (Philippines), Dr. Maysi Phommasone (Laos), Mr. Sompong Sitthivong (Laos), Ms. Imelda Baleta (Philippines), Mrs. Rini Rachmawati (Indonesia), Mrs. Rum Giyarsih (Indonesia), Ex-Senator Kwansuang Atibodhi, and Mrs. Keo Davy (Cambodia).

The Chairperson opened the discussion on “urban driving forces” with a brief reference to the “conceptual framework” (Hamhaber & Lee) distributed to the participants at the beginning of the Cambodia Summer School 2007. He highlighted the following points:

1. The framework was an attempt “to structure the idea of urban driving forces” from the results (i.e., ideas, presentations, discussions) of the previous summer schools in Cologne, Jogjakarta and the Philippines.
2. To use the framework, not as “the conceptual model,” but to provide the participants with a “working model” to finalize the discussions on the notion of “driving forces” with its applications to specific examples/case studies in the various countries.
3. To clarify and refine the framework, its various concepts and terms or definitions and descriptions.

This stimulated an active and rich response from the participants. During the exchanges, various perceptions, ideas and specific examples were expressed that contributed to the clarification of the framework and the terminologies used. The following points were agreed by the group for presentation at the plenary session:

1. The “Multi-Layered Driving Forces Model” was a basic, good starting point to use in further conceptualizing urbanization processes and developments.
2. Using the framework, the group identified some of the main actors or urban driving forces (UDFs) derived from the various presentations. Under each of the three main categories of UDFs, the following key actors were identified:

(a) Government UDFs:

- The various levels (or units) of the government structure (i.e., national, regional, provincial, city, municipal, district, etc.);

- The government “technocrats” [i.e., working staff and agents (e.g., consultants) of the government units – legal, technical, etc.]
- The government “policymakers” (i.e., lawmakers, politicians)
- Semi-statutory bodies

(b) Business UDFs:

- Investors (foreign and local)
- Private corporations/companies (multinational/local)
- Landowners (private, government)
- Government-linked business groups
- Small and medium-sized enterprises

(c) Civil Society

- Church Institutions
- Educational Institutions
- Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)
- People’s Organizations (POs)/ Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and their networks at the local, provincial, national levels

3. The group applied the framework to discuss the specific case studies of Mrs. Rini Rachmawati and Mrs. Rum Giyarsih identifying the UDFs and the processes and impacts in the case studies (these case studies were presented individually as scheduled in the summer school). In the case of Mrs. Giyarshi, regional transformation took place triggered by the development of the Jogjakarta-Solo Corridor (infrastructure-induced). In the establishment of the corridor, the government was a driving force. Eventually, housing development was triggered by developers along with other private businesses that established economic activities. In the case of Mrs. Rachmawati’s presentation on Gadjadharma University, the educational institution itself was identified as the main driving force, activating changes in Jogjakarta’s urban landscape such as spatial transformation (land use changes, etc.) and socio-economic transformation that created other UDFs (i.e., the government, business sector and business society).

4. Ex-Senator Kwansuang Atibodhi presented to the group his concept of the DFs. Please refer to Figure 1.
5. The group agreed to point out that...

- (a) the three main DFs (i.e. Government, Business and Civil Society) are “one wheel” (so to speak) that drives the vehicle to certain directions, each one playing their specific roles in the phenomenon and complexity of urbanization;
 - (b) the three main DFs are always interactive as they play their different roles triggering changes in society in the process/ development of urbanization; and
 - (c) the framework has been a very good and useful framework that needs further formulation to incorporate the ideas of the group.
6. The same group gathered again at Build Bright University, minus Prof. Lee Boon Thong (who left earlier), and joined in by Mr. Sy Rathmony (Cambodia). Each of the group participants wrote a brief summary of their presentations identifying the driving forces in their cases. The discussion is summarized as follows:
- (a) Dr. Maysi’s “Investment in Laos: Electrification in Rural and Urban Areas” (in Laos) identified the following: (1) drivers/actors – government agencies and investors, with the community as secondary actor; (2) driving forces: (i) electrification to village and cities, and (ii) electricity policy and programme; and (3) impacts – improvement of living conditions of the community, higher population density, new settlements, new environments;
 - (b) Mr. Sompong Sitthivong (Laos) had a similar gist as Dr. Maysi, adding the infrastructure of water systems and road constructions for urban and rural users; and
 - (c) Mrs. Keo Davy (Cambodia) pointed out the government, private business investors and international NGOs/local NGOs with people participation as driving forces in creating changes in landownership and land uses for various purposes (e.g., for business, for agriculture, for settlement, housing, etc.) in Cambodia.

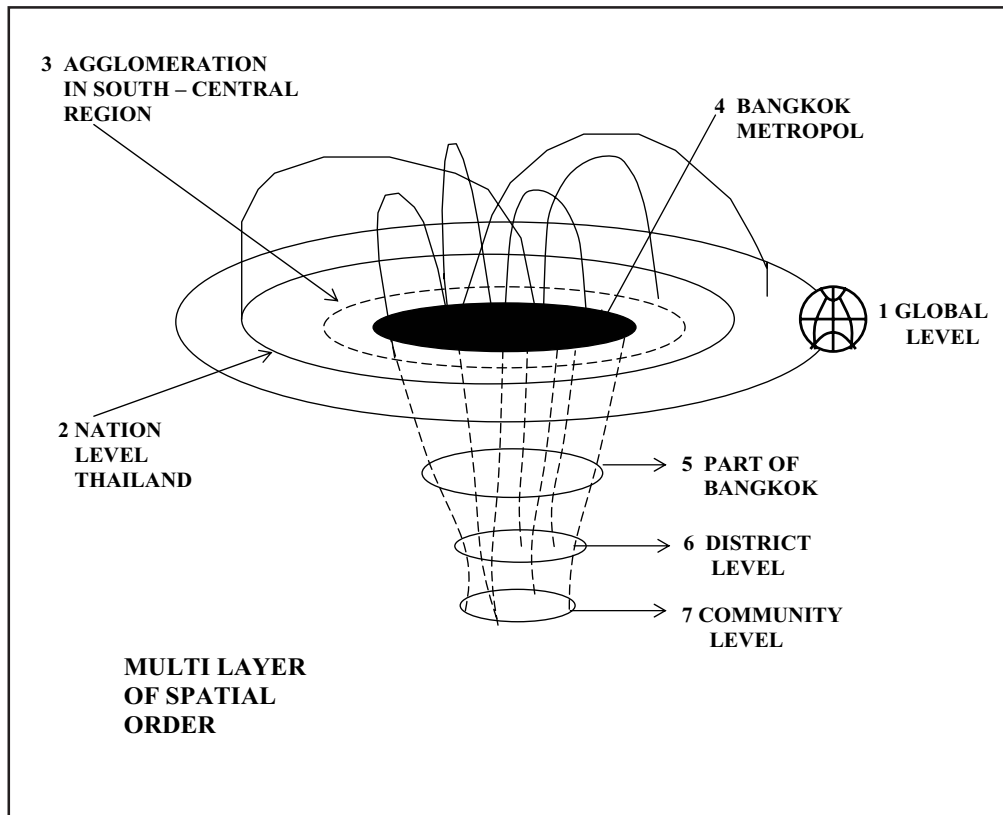


Figure 1. Urban Driving Forces

Towards a conceptualisation of urban driving forces

Khanh Hung Duong, University of Basel, Switzerland

As this year's Summer Schools on Urban Driving Forces have been held in Cagayan De Oro and Pnomh Penh, it is certainly challenging to deal with the subject if one has missed the path breaking meetings like I did. However, I am sure enough that the discussions and workshops during the events were fruitful. Otherwise they wouldn't have finally led to the development of a structure giving 'Multi-Layered Driving Force Model'. Many thanks to Prof. Lee and Dr. Hamhaber for bringing together the discussion outcomes. The conceptual model they have elaborated is highly appreciated because it gives us a tool to understand the jointly defined approach on urban driving forces. Particularly those who couldn't participate in C.D.O. and/or Pnomh Penh are able to relate to the discussed matters of urban drivers. It is perfectly true, in turn, that establishing a mutual understanding is quite important not only in order to embed the coming paper presentations into a common context, but also for reasons which are fundamental for the further approach on the two following foci *Urban Coherence* and *Urban Civil Society* in 2008 and 2009. I believe that a joint cognitive interest and approach to urban drivers at this stage can best help building a fruitful foundation for the examination of the coming themes. Therefore, allow me to make some personal comments on Prof. Lee's and Hannes' multilayered DF-model.

Determining the key driving forces is important to understand the underlying mechanism of urban development. However, driving forces are complex triggers that encourage, expand, impede or limit urban development trends. Due to the complexities of various influential factors on urban development/change it would be wrong to expect clear chains of causality. Instead what we have is an urban system of interrelated and interwoven factors. There are multiple inter-relationships and positive and negative back couplings as well. Hence, for analytical reasons, if we see DFs as triggers it might be useful to define them as independent variables which influence or shape a particular outcome within the city and/or its surrounding. So we may distinguish between factors that drive urban change and the resulting pressures. The critical question is how to commit dependent and independent variables (triggers and outcomes) in a complex urban system with multiple causal factors. For instance, poverty might be considered as a structurally-induced DF, but in turn the phenomena itself can come about a variety of contexts and be driven by other structural imperatives. In the first case poverty is seen as a DF (independent variable) that induces change or action, whereas in the second case poverty is a result (dependent variable) of actually other driving forces (e.g. global or regional forces). Second example: Urban managers and gatekeepers (structuring or acting DFs) have much influence on the urban structure by making decision. But if we ask "why?" in terms of their acting, we probably would find "thousand and a thing" (Prof. Lee/Dr. Hamhaber in the previous ForUm-Newsletter) that could be seen as driving forces. In other words, there are driving forces behind driving forces, and each force has direct or indirect impacts on urban life and structure.

I personally believe that we do need not only a conceptual but also an analytical approach to DFs. This would help to recognise, for instance, why some external or global factors such as economic deregulation or societal modernisation are per se (background) DFs whereas other external (regional) processes are seen primarily as dimensions for structure-induced DFs. Certainly, the pragmatic and analytical application of DFs which make up the cities is also a question of one's perspective and cognitive interest. Academically speaking, it is the research question that is crucial rather than the question whether or not the focal issues are right/wrong or adequate. We may focus on critical key driving forces on the basis of our object of interest. Then, in a broader perspective and for better understanding the inter-causal relationships of complex urban issues we may establish the influencing factors behind the key drivers as (background) 'enablers' or 'barriers'. The cognitive area is additionally limited by a defined time horizon in which DFs, enablers and barriers are operating in more or less close interrelation with each other.

When identifying urban driving forces is about finding reliable explanations for urban development processes, then it is obvious that there is no global answer which is universally valid for all spatial and temporal contexts. This is a banal consequence to the previous statements, but indeed, it will help to incorporate the manifold ideas, experiences and perspectives from different countries into a common understanding (with future foci in terms of *urban coherence* and *civil society*).

Workshop on Future Cooperation

The group workshop on “Future Cooperation” dealt with the following agenda:

1. The schedule of the next Summer School;
2. How the cooperation will go on beyond the Summer School.

Particular issues raised on the floor for discussion:

1. Summer School 2008 & 2009
2. Program Structure
3. Exchange program
4. Internationalization
 - o International joint program for the graduate school
 - o Lecture sessions, workshops
 - o Program development
5. Internships/Scholarships
6. Publication
7. Practical joint project beyond research

The group was not able to discuss numbers 6 & 7 because of the time constraint.

Discussion:

1. Summer School
 - o The next coming Summer School in 2008 is scheduled in Bangkok and Chang Mai, Thailand (spring) and in Vietnam (autumn). However, the place of the conference will be selected based on the preference of the local organizers;
 - o The scheduled Summer School in Laos is still tentatively scheduled pending the approval of the application for GIS training for Laos. If the program will be approved, the Summer School will be scheduled in another country.
2. Program Structure
 - o The program itself is good but there is a need for a more focused discussion by clustering the issues to be presented. However, the DAD has restrictions that the Summer School has to follow.
 - o Although the present program has a balanced presentation, there is still a need for a format where there are more discussions on the case studies presented. Thus, it was suggested that participants should be divided into various groups to be exposed in various sectors that are studied/presented for a discussion/role play from various perspectives. In this way, there are more indebt discussions;

- o The past discussions in the Summer School were focused on the urban poor and thus, there is a need to focus on other urbanization issues.
3. Exchange Program
 - o Students’ fieldwork and Staff exchange for lecturing were suggested for the exchange program. However, there is a need to know what facilities can the participating institutions could offer;
 - o There is also a need to identify and publish both on the Newsletter and the webpage the various funding agencies for easy access to grants and scholarships.
 4. Internationalization
 - o Program development for graduate students on “SE Asian urbanization” issues was suggested. This program would include study tours and exposures to neighboring Asian countries. Prof. Dr. Lee will organize a “Center for Urbanization”
 - o Dr. Hartono announced that there is a grant component in the GATT-WTO fund for University development where 49% of the grant will be born by the locals;
 - o A book publication on the SE Asian “urbanization” issue was suggested.
 5. Internship/Scholarships
 - o There is a need for a collaboration among participating universities to design a particular program that will enhance the skills of graduate students to do research work and not only coursework.



Participants Expectations from Forum for Urban Future

1. To Share experiences with the other countries that will be faced in the future.
2. To learn and understand more about situation of regional countries on urban development, urban challenges and all the policy of each government.
3. understand more forum network in recently and future.
4. the forum program is a good exercise to got a group of expertise in the field of urban issues from Germany and S.E Asian countries to come together to build up further the combined knowledge in this important issue and analysis the situation and conditions in the urban areas in the S.E Asian countries and hopefully to discuss on SITUATION/ POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS to solve or at least reduce the problems in these areas. The discussion and exchange of knowledge and ideas are best done by face to face contact for two weeks which is scheduled for twice a year for 3 years, but if this is too time consuming for some of participants, discussion can be done by email and through the Forum website. I would like to go deeper in the field of urban planning laud, and practice and local governance in our countries.
5. To learn more about the phenomenon of urbanization, its driving force(ie. What, how, when, why, who is in control?)
...
6. To keep network with many experts in urban focus and making a new program activities such as workshop, student/staff exchange, field study ect.
7. To have a plan and do research in the focus on mega cities in Indonesia and compare with other country
8. To get a good communication with the nation and international guess
9. To know each other
10. Learning from problem, identify appropriation solutions
11. Building more network and cooperation in near future
12. This program will find the solution all the problem to develop city for sustainable in the future
13. Know the development of Phnom penh or Cambodia
14. as a community organizer academician, I am interested on practice system both on micro and macro level that many be of help to my interest in community development and are intent of my teaching urban
15. To expand network and contacts for future cooperation
16. Exchange of experience in management, creative solutions, feasible planning
17. Learning by comparison of urban issues in various cities with similar or different hysterical background
18. Be aware of the root cause of urbanization process
19. To make a comparative finding between the countries in the European countries.
20. To find out an appropriate measures and actions for improving the challenges of urbanization
21. To learn and get experience in urban planning and development including management to know how to overcome problems with in our difficult conditions such as : lack of fund, not sufficient laws and weak law reinforcement
22. To know the problem of those countries and impact of there driving forces and how to respond it
23. Special in Cambodia I would like to know more about the culture and social life that develop of the city
24. To know and understand the different content of development inside Cambodia and our neighboring countries. To getting good input to upgrade development system in Cambodia . Extension education system in Cambodia and it has more change to cooperation with thus participant countries .

UPCOMING 2008 SUMMER SCHOOL IN THAILAND

Now we are looking forward to our next meeting in Thailand and our colleagues there are already busy with the preparation of the programme in Bangkok and Chiang Mai. It will take place from 17-29 February 2008.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

After we discussed and analysed the "Urban driving forces" in 2007 we will now, in 2008 concentrate on "Urban Coherence". This will set the different actors within city development in the front, while dealing with social coherence and cohesion on various levels of actors, institutions and organisations involved in the city development process as well as in the international cooperation. We are looking much forward to discuss this topic together with you and our colleagues from Thailand and kindly ask you to send us your abstracts as soon as possible. We know that the time is running and we all have a lot of upcoming activities and celebrations, but due to organisational reasons, we need the abstracts **latest until 03 of January 2008**. Nevertheless we will be very pleased for every abstract that can be send already earlier in order to do the selection of participants, sending the reply and invitation letters also as soon as possible.

Please be so kind to follow the regulation for the abstracts: - not exceeding 400 words, - single spaced, times new roman and 12 font size - should be submitted electronically not later than January 03, 2008 to christine.knie@uni-koeln.de The notice of acceptance of papers, presentations or posters based on the abstracts will be send to authors latest by January 15, 2008.

We are looking much forward to your respond!


Frauke Kraas and Christine Knie

Forum for Urban Future





Southeast Asian- Germany Summer School in Cambodia on Urbanization- Challenges and Conflicts

Focus: “Urban Driving Forces”

(19- 30 October 2007)

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	Ms. Imelda Baleta Consultant Operation and Evaluation Department, Asian Development Bank, Manila, Philippines

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* Participants are arranged alphabetically
by countries

