Inside

FEATURE: Second 2004 Workshop

2 AUICK Second 2004 Workshop on AUICK
Associate Cities Research: STELLA Modelling

8 Dynamic Modelling
by Dr. Gayl D. Ness

9 Chennai - A success Story: Rainwater Harvesting

ARCHIVE

12 Monitoring Visits

24 Visits to UNFPA Country Offices

28 Committee Meetings

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AUICK Second 2004 Workshop

AUICK held the Second 2004 Workshop under the themes of "AUICK Associate Cities Research: STELLA Modelling" in Khon Kaen, Thailand, from 21 to 25 November 2004, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Kobe City Government. It was the second time for AUICK to organize a training course in a city outside of Japan since AUICK held a training course on ICPD and Health Care in Singapore from 21 to 24 October 1998. This was also the first workshop held in an associate city outside of Japan under the new strategic project for 2004-2007. The workshop was hosted by the Khon Kaen Municipality and Khon Kaen University.

BACKGROUND

Before moving into high gear with the new strategy for the years 2004-2007, AUICK conducted a baseline study in each of the AUICK Associate cities (AACs) with the cooperation of academic partners and associate city officials. The objectives of the baseline study was: (a) to collect baseline levels of various Millennium Development Goal (MDG) indicators so that they could be used as a platform for assessing the impact of the project; (b) to determine various problems and issues, and the priorities assigned to them; and (c) to identify successful practices so that case studies of these experiences can be developed for use in training courses and sharing them with other cities through AUICK Newsletter and the website.

In August 2004, each academic collaborator organized an advisory group in each AAC. The advisory group was composed of four representatives: two from the City (AAC Liaison Officer plus another) and two from local academic institutions (one social scientist and one natural scientist or engineer). The academic collaborator was appointed as a director for the MDG study. This was done to develop lasting collaborative relationships. From September to October 2004, each advisory group conducted data collection, and submitted the outcomes to AUICK by 1 November. From 21 to 25 November, AAC senior officials, academic collaborators, and IAC members attended the Second 2004 Workshop in Khon Kaen, and shared the information on the collected data in terms of outcomes and experiences. Research and work plans and report writing were also discussed.

By 15 December, each advisory group submitted a draft of their baseline study report to AUICK. From December 2004 to February 2005, policy analysis was made for review of data for policy implications through the advisory group dialogues and/or public hearings. The final report on the baseline study was submitted to the UNFPA by the end of March 2005.

Note: The findings of the baseline study in each associate city will be reported in subsequent publication.

AIM

The workshop was designed on a three-tier platform: (a) To share data and experiences from the baseline research conducted in each city from September to November, and discuss analysis and report writing format of the baseline survey report; (b) To examine STELLA simulation modelling methods to be utilized in more effective urban planning; and (c) To provide information on Japanese Official Development Aid that may become available through a joint project supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Kobe International Center for Cooperation and Communication (KIC).

PARTICIPANTS

The workshop was attended by 27 participants, including 9 AAC officials, 14 academic collaborators, and 4 IAC members. (Participants listed alphabetically according to country by group)

A. AAC Officials 9 persons
Mr. A.K.M. Rezaul Karim City Planner and Head Department of Architecture and City Planning, Chittagong City Corporation, Bangladesh
Mr. Sun Chenggong Chief of International Relations Section, Foreign Affairs Office, Weihai Municipal Government, China
Mr. Shiv Das Meena Joint Commissioner (Education), Education, Revenue & Finance, Corporation of Chennai, India
Mr. Togar Arifin Silaban Chief of Urban Infrastructures Division, Urban Development Planning Agency, Surabaya City Government, Indonesia
Mr. Abd Rahim Bin Abd Manaf Head of Health Division, Health and Cleanliness Control, Kuantan Municipal Council, Malaysia
Mr. Rai Muhammad Amin Khan
Tehsil Municipal Officer, Tehsil Municipal Administration Faisalabad, Pakistan

Ms. Thelma Tongson Rivera
Special Operations Officer III, Urban Basic Services Programme, Olongapo City, Philippines

Ms. Woraphan Thuleecharn
General Services Officer, Office of the Municipal Clerk, Khon Kaen Municipality, Thailand

Ms. Anh Thu Nguyen
Head of Protocol and International Relations Division, Foreign Affairs Department, Danang People’s Committee, Vietnam

B. Academic Collaborators 14 persons

Dr. Iftikhar Uddin Chowdhury
Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh

Dr. Du Yang
Associate Professor, Institute of Population and Labour Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), China

Dr. Tyagarajan Swaminathan
Professor, Chemical Engineering Department, Indian Institute of Technology (Madras), India

Mr. Dharmendra Pratap Yadav
AUICK Honorary Consultant for Chennai Activities, India

Dr. Puruhito
Rector, Airlangga University, Indonesia

Dr. Sunarjo
Deputy Director, Post Graduate Program, Airlangga University, Indonesia

Dr. Kunto R.
Secretary, Research Center for Population and Development Research Institute, Indonesia

Mr. Made Ace Subrata
Assistant of Administrator, Damandiri Foundation, Indonesia

Dr. Alias Bin Abdullah
Associate Professor/Director, Bureau of Consultancy and Entrepreneurship, International Islamic University Malaysia

Mr. Muhammad Nur Azruel Shabbudin
Project Officer, International Islamic University Malaysia

Dr. M. Asghar Cheema
Chairman, Department of Rural Sociology, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Pakistan

Dr. Joel V. Mangahas
College Secretary and Director of Studies, University of the Philippines, Philippines

Dr. Peerasit Kamnansilpa
Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences Khon Kaen University, Thailand

Dr. Trinh Duy Luan
Associate Professor/Director, Institute of Sociology, Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences, Vietnam

C. AUICK IAC Members 4 persons

Dr. Prem P. Talwar
Adjunct Professor, University of North Carolina

Dr. Haryono Suyono
Former Coordinating Minister for Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation, Indonesia

Dr. Kareem Iqbal
Former Federal Secretary and Member of Sindh Local Government Commission, Pakistan

Dr. Gayl D. Ness
Professor Emeritus, University of Michigan, USA

D. AUICK Secretariat 4 persons

Mr. Masayuki Ishitsubo
Executive Director

Mr. Nobuyuki Morimoto
Manager

Ms. Chika Kodama
Manager, Project II Division of KIC

Ms. Britt Barry
Special Assistant for English Documents
2nd Day: Monday, 22 November

The workshop programs started with the Opening Ceremony from 8:30 am in a conference room at Khon Kaen University. Mr. Peeraporn Pattanapeeradej, Mayor of Khon Kaen, and Dr. Suman Sakolchai, President of Khon Kaen University, each made a welcome speech as hosts. Mr. Masayuki Ishitsubo, Executive Director of AUICK, provided the background and rationale for the workshop and wished the participants a pleasant and productive stay. Dr. Jintana Bunbongkarn, Vice Chairman of the College of Asian Scholars, then declared the workshop officially open on behalf of Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, the Thai member of AUICK’s IAC.

Following the self-introduction by the workshop participants, Dr. Ness began his first session on the STELLA software by describing the four main icons which STELLA uses to construct a model: Stocks; Flows; Converters; and Connectors. “Stocks” represent a reservoir for a quantity at a specified time such as population, cars, and water. “Flows” represent the processes by which the stock is increased or depleted. For example, population is a stock, which is increased by the...
flow of births and in-migration, and decreased by the flow of deaths and out-migration. "Converters" represent quantitative information about the connection between "Stocks" and "Flows" such as birth and death rates. "Connectors" are mechanisms by which converters are specifically linked to flows or converters. For example, a flow of population is connected to the flow of births to allow for a calculation of how population will increase or decrease over time with specific rates of births and deaths.

Then Dr. Ness prepared a framework of the key stocks and associated flows of a simple population model affected by births and deaths and in- and out-migration.

After formulating the basic framework, the next task is to outfit the diagram with statistical assumptions. In this case, to model a city's population, a stock is generated by designating the value of the population at the starting time. Then flows of births, deaths and migration are entered. In each case rates are introduced as converters. With these elements and data, the STELLA software can determine a number for the total population at some future time. It can also show the numbers of birth, deaths and migrants that would have produced that specific population. One useful way to incorporate assumptions is to use the STELLA software's graphical functions.

After the framework is fully outfitted with the assumptions, the next step is to simulate the patterns of population transition by those assumptions. With the STELLA software, simulation output can be viewed as a plot (time series or scatter), a table of numbers, and animation of the diagram. Dr. Ness began an extensive set of simulation tests with these graphic functions.

Closing the session, Dr. Ness summarized what the dynamic modelling is and how useful the STELLA software is to develop a modelling. (The details of his instruction on dynamic modelling can be found on page 8.)

3rd Day: Tuesday, 23 November

The workshop participants spent all day to practice using the STELLA software with their own city data collected from the recent baseline surveys. The collected data on primary school enrolment was used to give an orientation of how city planning can be improved by examining past data to predict future challenges in a specific area for administrators.

Finally, Dr. Ness reviewed the AUICK Associate Cities Research Agenda and requested the research team members to summarize the outcome of their baseline survey with the STELLA software and submit the report by the end of March 2005.

4th Day: Wednesday, 24 November

Chennai Presentation

In the morning session, the Chennai team composed of Mr. Shiv Das Meena, Dr. Tyagarajan Swaminathan, and Mr. Dhamendra Pratap Yadav, made a presentation on their experiences of data collection, and on some of their findings.
They also made a presentation on two successful practices adopted by the City: (a) Rain water harvesting; and (b) Collection and segregation of garbage. The best practice of rainwater harvesting particularly attracted the attention of the other workshop participants. (See the detailed information of rainwater harvesting on Page 9)

Such success stories will be made into case studies to be used for future training courses as well as for dissemination to other city planners through AUICK Newsletter and the website.

**JICA’s Partnership Program**

Following the Chennai presentation, Ms. Chika Kodama, Manager of KIC, made a presentation on the JICA’s strategic partnership program that is funded through Japan’s Official Development Program (ODA), and which may be applicable to AACs.

JICA is the ODA agency responsible for bilateral grants and technical cooperation, and is active in dozens of countries worldwide. The list of the top ten recipients of Japanese ODA includes all nine countries represented by the AACs (the tenth country being Sri Lanka). JICA’s role in technical assistance to South nations is well respected. Each year the agency receives many applications for grants or technical assistance and the selection process is often lengthy and very competitive, and criteria for approval are stringent. Yet through KIC, Ms. Kodama explained how a JICA technical cooperation project could be possible in one of the AACs, if implemented through KIC acting as a partner agency of JICA.

After explaining the kind of technical training and assistance offered under this program, as well as the application process, Ms. Kodama invited AACs to submit one proposal each by the end of January for a grassroots-level project that requires technical assistance from Japan. KIC will then select the most suitable proposal and submit it to JICA and ODA for approval under the conditions of this particular JICA program. The maximum length of time for a project to be implemented is three years.

**Visit to College of Asian Scholars**

In the afternoon, the workshop participants visited the College of Asian Scholars (CAS), which was established by Dr. Krasae Chanawongse on 26 February 2001.

Dr. Kason Chanawongse, President of CAS and the son of Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, offered words of welcome and gave an outline of the college. Then Dr. Krasae Chanawongse made a short speech on why he established his college and what philosophy of education he has.

It is to provide beneficial education to Thai youth to create opportunities and special support for those with limited opportunities. He believes people whose opportunities are limited because of social and family background should receive more from society and the nation. This philosophy is educating rural youth, who are the future of Thailand. With this in mind he founded CAS in Khon Kaen City.

CAS opened at the beginning of the academic year of 2002 with a program at the Bachelor level in the faculty of Business Administration with business computing, general management, marketing, accounting, and international business management departments. In the academic year 2003, 2 new faculties, liberal arts and law were opened. CAS is responsible for teaching business administration, expanding the technical level of business competence, and moral excellence. It is also committed to producing graduates who are skilled professionals, able to solve problems, intellectuals of good moral character, disciplined, self-sacrificing, and willing to work for the common good.
Closing

To formally bring the workshop to a close, Mr. Masayuki Ishitsubo thanked the participants and IAC members respectively for their attendance at the workshop and for their valuable contribution to AUICK. He also thanked the Khon Kaen Municipality and Khon Kaen University for their arrangements.

He concluded his remarks as follows: "Many new friendships were made and old ones renewed during the Khon Kaen workshop, which has strengthened the ties between the ten cities, including Japan, and will ensure that information, technical knowledge and expertise are shared throughout Asia through these close links. With the closing of the workshop we could all feel assured that the goal of creating critical masses of expertly trained personnel in each of the nine cities is well underway."

5th Day: Thursday, 25 November

The workshop participants departed for their respective countries.

REVIEW

The workshop strengthened commitment among AACs and their academic collaborators to work together to solve the urban population issues that each city is facing, and to continue sharing information, ideas and data. The STELLA modelling training gave participants basic technical skills in the use of the software and with further practical application, better understanding of how to use population data to ensure more effective urban development planning.

Finding great usefulness of the STELLA model for urban planning, Dr. Haryono Suyono, IAC Member of Indonesia, organized a two-day seminar on STELLA in Surabaya, Indonesia, for the city administrators and researchers from 27 to 28 November. It was a spin-off from AUICK’s workshop in Khon Kaen. The seminar was attended by 225 participants from five Indonesia cities. He commented that the STELLA software could help them analyze and solve many issues which the five cities in Indonesia have to tackle.

Dr. Du Yang, first briefed on the workshop of Stella software. He said that through this training, AUICK offered a useful and intuitive tool for forecasting various aspects in urban development which are relevant to the UN Millennium Goals. Khon Kaen University offered great help in organizing this workshop and made it success.

Then, Mr. Sun Chenggong briefly introduced Weihai City and its relation with AUICK. He said, "Although Weihai has made tremendous achievement in improving human living conditions, it still faces new challenges brought by globalization and economic development, such as environmental sustainability and the unexpected increase of aging population. We hope that we can solve the problems in urban development by sharing information with other AACs through the AUICK 2004-2007 Program and set a good model for other China’s small and medium cities."

Mr. Ronny said, "I am impressed by AUICK’s continuous commitment in helping Asian countries to obtain the UN Millennium Goals, and as an official of UNFPA, I am ready for any consultation and help to facilitate the successful cooperation between Weihai and AUICK during the 2004-2007 Program." He suggested that the workshop programs focus on specific project on what the city really needs, and the communication system be easily accessed."
Dynamic Modelling

Dr. Gayl D. Ness
Member of AUICK International Advisory Committee
Professor Emeritus, University of Michigan, USA


Introduction

The nine AUICK Associate Cities (AACs) addressing their position on the Millennium Development Goals are using some form of dynamic modelling to assess their current conditions and help plan for the future. This makes it important to understand what dynamic modelling is and what are its advantages and limitations.

What are dynamic models and how do they work?

Models are simplified versions of reality. They are useful tools for understanding, because they allow us to cut through the great complexity of any condition or process to focus on a manageable number of variables. They also allow us to examine possible futures, called scenarios in the language of modelling. Models describe relationships between different conditions. Knowing these relationships allows us to ask what will happen if these relationships persist into the future. If we do not actually know what the relationships are, we can make assumptions (or guess) about them and use those assumptions to examine future scenarios.

Models are often called dynamic, meaning that what happens in one part of a model, with one or two conditions, will affect other conditions in the model. They often involve what are called feedback loops. For example, in population modelling, births constitute a positive feedback loop. The more births we have, the more people will be available to give birth and thus the more births we will have in the future. Death, on the other hand, is a negative feedback loop. The more deaths we have, the fewer people will be available to contribute to the population by giving birth.

Illustration of a dynamic model

To illustrate, we can model population growth by looking at four rates: birth and death, and in and out migration. If we know these rates from the past, we can project them into the future to ask what the size of the population will be under those rates. If we do not know past rates, we can make assumptions about them and still project them into the future. In either case, we cannot know for certain what the future rates will be, but we can make assumptions (or guesses) about them and calculate the outcome of those assumptions. The United Nations has been doing this with world and regional population estimates for near half a century. The different scenarios the UN has run for future world population levels have been fairly accurate on the global level. To be sure, more recent projections are being revised downward, but on the whole the projections have been remarkably close to what actually came to pass.

This illustrates some important aspects of dynamic modelling. The model is very simple; it uses only four rates and four variables: births, deaths, in- and out-migration. Many things affect births, including things like the age of marriage and the proportion of the population that does not marry, how many children are wanted, and the living standards of a population. The same can be said for deaths and migration. Many conditions affect these movements. Trying to encompass all of these complex conditions would make it almost impossible to think about future population sizes. The model allows us to cut through this complexity and to deal with a manageable number of conditions or variables.

It also illustrates the importance of assumptions. Modelling requires making assumptions about the future. If we assume that the death rate will decline, we will find increasing population numbers in the future scenarios we run. If we assume birth rates will decline, future scenarios will show a decline in the rate of population growth. If we assume the birth rate will be very low (below replacement level, as it is now in Japan and most of Europe) future scenarios will show an actual decline in the population. The most important aspect of these assumptions is that they are explicit and thus highly visible. People, with or without, may disagree with any assumptions. Thus assumptions can be changed to examine the implications of the change. Most people carry models in their heads. Usually the assumptions behind those models are not explicit; they are not stated; they are not visible; and they cannot be challenged. Dynamic modelling makes the assumptions explicit and visible.
Benefits of using dynamic models

It is the visibility and the challengeability of assumptions that makes dynamic modelling both powerful and useful.

Let me give another example from the Five Cities study, using the case of Kobe. We modelled the numbers of vehicles in the past with projections of their increase to the year 2020. Knowing the ratio of automobiles to specific air pollutants — suspended particulate matter (SPM) in particular — we could calculate the increase in SPM, assuming the growth of vehicles and the emissions technology that existed in 1995. This showed rising levels of SPM, from which we could calculate that this would imply an additional 10,000 deaths to the year 2020 that would result from the increased SPM. Kobe's engineers are quite certain that the emissions technology will improve, and the increase of vehicles will not actually result in our scenario's outcome of pollution and mortality, but it was very useful to run the scenario with those assumptions to point out to Kobe's leaders one possible implications of an increase in vehicles.

The ability to run different future scenarios with different assumptions gives dynamic modelling much of its power and utility. Moreover, today there are a number of computer programs for dynamic modelling. The AAC are using a program called STELLA. This implies great speed in calculations. It also implies that that running different future scenarios with different assumptions is a very simple task, which is especially useful for urban administrators. The assumptions are all clearly stated in the computer model. If a particular future outcome seems highly improbable, its underling assumptions can be examined and changed to produce an outcome that seems more probable. On the other hand, however, if the assumptions appear reasonable, administrators can see a probable outcome of today's conditions. They can then create policies or programs to correct current conditions so that the model's projected outcome will not come to pass.

How can dynamic modelling assist urban administrators?

In effect dynamic modelling gives urban administrators the opportunity to look into the future and to make educated or informed guesses about what the future might hold. More importantly, it allows groups of administrators and scientists to work together to look into the future and to design policies and programs to make the future a better one. This is what is happening among the AUICK Associate Cities. They are building teams of urban administrators and university scientists whose collaboration will be facilitated by dynamic modelling. This hope is that this will help to improve the quality of life of the people in those cities. It is also the hope that this will provide a useful model for other cities and national governments to follow.

Editor's Note: This article was contributed by Dr. Gayl D. Ness specifically to this newsletter to provide more concrete ideas on the dynamic modelling theory after the workshop.

Chennai - A Success Story: Rainwater Harvesting

Mr. Shiv Das Meena
Joint Commissioner (Education)
Chennai Corporation

Introduction

Drinking water is one of the essentials for human existence. Surface and the ground water are the two major sources of drinking water. Drinking water supply in urban areas is mostly centralized and is primarily from surface sources such as natural or impounded reservoirs. As the population density and usage levels are relatively high in urban areas, water agencies construct, operate and maintain huge surface water dams and reservoirs for meeting their water demands. However, individual households in urban areas also have their own bore wells/open wells to cater to needs other than potable water. Chennai City depends on a few surface reservoirs outside the city limit which are fed by rainwater. However, on one hand due to poor monsoon rains these reservoirs rarely receives sufficient inflows resulting in water scarcity, and on the other hand the city is fast growing. Therefore, due to excessive pressure on ground water, the ground water table is fast depleting and in some cases saline water intrusion is also taking place.
What Rainwater Harvesting is

The concept of rainwater harvesting lies in tapping the rainwater where it falls. The rainwater collected can be stored for direct use or can be recharged into the ground water. A major portion of the rainwater that falls on the earth's surface, runs-off in streams to rivers and finally to the sea. On an average only 8 to 10% of the total rainfall recharges the ground water aquifer and most of the remaining rainfall is wasted in the form of surface runoff or evaporation.

The technique of rainwater harvesting involves catching the rains from localized catchments such as the roof of a house or plain and sloping ground surfaces, etc. The rainwater that falls on these catchments is diverted into dugout ponds, vessels or underground tanks to store for a longer period.

The annual rainfall in Chennai is in the range of 1200-1300 mm. This is much higher than India's average rainfall of 800 mm. However, this rainfall occurs in short spells of a few days. On an average the city receives rainfall for only 300 hours throughout the year. The characteristics of this rainfall demands not only that the city conserves large quantity of rainwater during these few days but also that it stores whenever it rains preferably for direct use and alternatively to recharge ground water.

The following illustration gives an idea of how water which can be harvested in Chennai city.

For a building with a flat terrace area of 100 sq.m,

Average annual rainfall = 1,300 mm = 1.3 m

Total volume of water which falls on this area during a year = 100 sq.m × 1.3 m
= 130 m³ = 130 × 1000
= 130,000 liters

Assuming that 60% of this water can be harvested effectively, the volume harvested in a year = 60/100 × 130,000 liters
= 78,000 liters
or 78,000 liters/365 = 214 liters/day per house

How rainwater is harvested

From the rooftop water is collected through drain pipes (the first runoff is allowed to drain away as it may contain impurities) and diverted to a storage tank through a filter unit. The surplus water from this tank is connected either to an existing well or recharge pits constructed for this purpose. In case of open space areas such as grounds, roads, open areas in houses, etc. recharge pits or trenches are constructed to harvest the rainwater for ground water recharge. Existing open wells and bore wells, which have become dysfunctional either due to lack of water or saline water intrusion, are also used for rainwater harvesting to recharge the ground water.

Rainwater can be stored either in containers above or below ground level or it can be charged into ground as indicated below:

- Rainwater collected from the terrace is diverted to the existing open well using PVC pipes through a filter chamber / sump.
- The size of the filter chamber may be 2 × 2 × 3 filled up brick bats / pebbles in the bottom and coarse sand on the top.
- The chamber may be covered with RCC slab.
- Approx. Cost Rs. 1,350/- (for chamber only)

In case of large multi - storied buildings combination of roof - top and surface collection methods of RWH (direct collection to sump/ open well / borewell / percolation pit / percolation / trench / gate gutter and recharge well) may be adopted depending upon the area of the roof / open space.
- The cost will vary depending upon the number of structures and combinations of methods.
How the rainwater harvesting has been promoted

Chennai city faced severe water scarcity during the year 2001 and that acted as a major stimulus for rain water harvesting.

A special campaign was launched as a people's movement during July 2001 to popularize rainwater harvesting by the institutions as well as individual households. Simultaneously steps were also taken to provide rainwater harvesting in public buildings. Technical assistance cells were established in various organizations such as the City Corporation office, city water agency's office etc.

A campaign was launched through mass media, seminars, exhibitions, rallies, mobile publicity vans, etc. Rain centers demonstrating various methods of rain water harvesting, were also established in different parts of the city.

Rainwater harvesting was made mandatory by promulgating an ordinance during July 2003. All the citizens were directed through this ordinance to provide Rainwater Harvesting structure in all the buildings before 31 August 2003.

Today Chennai city is a rainwater friendly city. All the buildings, commercial as well as residential, are provided with rainwater harvesting structures. This has helped in improving the ground water table as well as in improving the quality of ground water. Moreover, during rainy season the dependence on the municipal water agency has come down.

Editor's Note: This article was contributed by Mr. Shiv Das Meena specially to this newsletter to provide more detailed information on the Chennai's water harvesting practice after the workshop.
Monitoring Visits

AUICK's main method to assess the impact of its activities has been monitoring visits. The main purposes of the visits to the past trainees are: (1) to find out how the knowledge and skills acquired through the training sessions have been utilized back in their countries; (2) to learn the trainees' views as to how to improve the future training sessions; and (3) to further motivate their professional commitment to the common goal of improving the management of urban services. This article is a summary of the four monitoring visits made between October 2003 and November 2004.

**Tianjin, China (20 October 2003)**

An AUICK delegation, comprised of Mr. Kazutoshi Sasayama, Chairman, Mr. Masayuki Ishitsubo, Executive Director, and Mr. Nobuyuki Morimoto, Manager, visited Tianjin City from 19 to 21 October 2003. In the afternoon of 20 October, they had a monitoring meeting with six Tianjin City officials who were the past participants of AUICK's training courses.

This visit was particularly significant as it was not only the first monitoring meeting in Tianjin but also the first in China. Since AUICK started the training programs in 1994, it has invited 18 senior officials from 10 cities in China, including eight Tianjin City officials.

AUICK's visit to Tianjin also coincided with the celebration of the 30th anniversary of a Friendship-City agreement between Kobe and Tianjin. To commemorate this anniversary, several special events were held in Tianjin on 19 and 20 October in which the AUICK delegation was invited to participate in recognition of its contribution to the promotion of friendship between the cities. Mr. Sasayama, in particular, has been a continuously active and strong supporter of the friendship between Tianjin and Kobe over the last 30 years, especially during his tenure as the Mayor of Kobe. Tianjin has recognized Mr. Sasayama's contribution to the strengthening of ties between the two cities by naming him an honorary citizen of Tianjin.

Mr. Sasayama opened the meeting with a brief greeting and explanation of its aims. He hoped that the past participants would share their knowledge and experiences to strengthen the intersectoral linkage across the different fields which they each represented, which include health care, housing, environmental management, water supply, and welfare for the aged. He concluded his opening remarks by wishing for the continued friendship between Tianjin and Kobe.

During the remainder of the meeting the AUICK delegation learned from the participants as they presented their thoughts on the current situation of their city, and outlined how they had implemented the knowledge, experiences and skills gained through AUICK training.

**Comments from the past participants**

Ms. Wang Xiuduo, Deputy Chief Engineer, Tianjin Municipal Engineering Design and Research Institute, was a participant in the Seminar on Public Utilities in Asian Cities in 2000. She was then and remains in charge of design and research on water supply and drainage facilities. Ms. Wang Xiuduo has designed many sewage treatment plants and she has also been involved in establishing the national technical standards for water operable agitators, drainage pumps for contaminators operable in water and arc grilles.

"For future seminars, I suggest that participants discuss the latest sewage treatment technology, including dephosphorisation and denitrification, and also technology and facilities for sludge treatment and garbage treatment. I think site visits to a newly constructed sewage treatment plant, preferably one equipped with the SBR system would be very useful."

Mr. Chen Zilin, Deputy Chief Engineer, Tianjin Environment Protection Bureau, was a participant in the 2001 Seminar on Solid Waste Management. At that time his job responsibilities included solid waste pollution control and management, urban noise and electronic radiation management.

"Tianjin has to decide whether it should reuse or dispose of industrial waste which has been accumulated and..."
stored for many years. We are now considering several measures to deal with this problem."

"Upon my return from the AUICK training, I became involved in a plan to protect against pollution produced by solid waste in Tianjin. I drafted provisions regarding the management of urban household waste. For this project the information I received from AUICK on regulations for controlling urban waste, the advanced treatment facilities and the public environmental awareness in Japan all served as a very useful reference."

"I suggest that the future length of AUICK training programs should be decided based on contents and targeted participants. Generally, the best length for engineers may be more than one month, while one month may be adequate for administrative officials. The venue should be changed so that training is held in various countries that face challenges related to the theme of training programs, which would allow participants to study problems and best practices firsthand. Themes to be discussed could be environmental protection, management of industrial solid waste, hazardous and household waste, reduction of noise (especially traffic noise), protection of water resources, sludge treatment of urban sewage facilities and so on."

Ms. Dong Ling, Vice Head, Tianjin Woman Health Institute, Health Care Unit, was a participant in the 1999 AUICK Seminar on Primary Health Care and Reproductive Health. At that time her responsibilities within the Tianjin City Government included constructing a health care system for pregnant women, organizing meetings and symposiums on prenatal medical care and providing technical advice to policy makers.

Ms. Dong indicated that she was interested in developing a reproductive health care system for women, and has stated that she would like to learn how such services are provided in developed countries through a future AUICK training course.

"One issue relating to reproductive health in Tianjin is the declining birth rate, which is related to the problem of population ageing. Care for the aged will become a serious issue in the near future. The city also faces a lack of integrated health care for pregnant women. Furthermore, the existing medical insurance system is outdated and needs to be revitalized."

"Reducing maternal and infant mortality will require a great deal of time before real and lasting changes can be seen, and I believe that achieving sustainable improvements will depend largely on upgrading the existing medical care services. The budget allocation for mother and child health care is inadequate, and knowledge of healthcare providers should be increased and updated."

Mr. Hou Qingchang, Deputy Director, Tianjin Municipal Research Institute for Family Planning (TMRIFP), participated in the Study Course on ICPD and Health Care held in Singapore in 1998.

Mr. Hou is in charge of research study projects conducted by the TMRIFP, which was established jointly with the WHO to conduct research studies on human reproduction. The Institute promotes epidemiological and socio-scientific studies on family planning and reproductive health, and a clinic adjoining the Institute offers reproductive health care service. He is interested in the diagnosis, protection and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases. In future AUICK training sessions he would like to study the influences of sexually transmitted diseases on mothers and newborn babies.

"In China, family planning is a fundamental national policy and reproductive health has an important priority. In Tianjin the current prevalence rate of reproductive tract infection is quite high at about 30%, and such infections interfere with not only health and wellbeing, but also with contraceptive methods."

"During the AUICK training course, I obtained useful information on population and health care from different countries in Asia. On my return to Tianjin, I had a meeting with my superiors at which I reported the useful information that I learned during the training course. In regard to future AUICK training courses, I suggest that the following fields, which are of interest to the Tianjin city administration: generating employment, particularly for university graduates, environmental preservation, water supply, waste treatment, health, transportation, social welfare, education and improving the residential environment."

Dr. Zou Ming Yu, Honorary President, Tianjin Senior Citizen’s Home, was a participant in the 2002 Seminar on Population Ageing and Administrative Countermeasures for the Aged. At that time she was a president of the Tianjin Senior Citizen’s Home, which is a social welfare facility equipped with 300 beds under the jurisdiction of the Public Welfare Bureau. The home provides nursing care, medical care, rehabilitation and education services for the aged. She retired from her position of president, but still has an active role in promoting welfare for the elderly.

At the AUICK seminar, she learned about Japan’s experiences and advanced administrative measures relating to welfare for the aged. She was impressed at how responsible and motivated the Japanese caregivers are. She also learned that Japan’s administration and citizens both have great concerns about population ageing issues, and are making strong efforts to prepare facilities for the aged.
"After the seminar, I established a training center for caregivers and have been training them. With the cooperation of the local residents, I also started several welfare services such as health care and meal delivery for the aged. To promote education for the aged, I established a college for seniors using the Citizen's Home, which offers courses on health, sanitation and psychology."

Editor's Note: Ms. Yang Jie nan, Director, Tianjin Environmental Protection Bureau, initially planned to attend the monitoring meeting. But due to her urgent business, Ms. Ma Li (Ms. Yang's staff member) attend the meeting as her proxy. Therefore, the Kobe delegation did not interview Ms. Yang Jie nan herself.

Surabaya, Indonesia (20 February 2004)

An AUICK delegation, composed of Dr. Haryono Su yono, IAC member, Mr. Masayuki Ishitsubo, Executive Director, and Mr. Nobuyuki Morimoto, Manager, visited Surabaya City from 19 to 21 February 2004. In the afternoon of 20 February at a conference room of the Surabaya City Hall, they had a monitoring meeting with the mayor and six senior officials of Surabaya City who participated in AUICK's past training courses.

Drs. Bambang Dwi Hartono, Mayor of Surabaya, extended his hearty welcome to AUICK delegation, and hoped that the visit would give Surabaya a great benefit.

Drs. Bambang stated, "It is our great honor that AUICK chose Surabaya as a candidate city in Indonesia for AACs. We would like to fulfill our responsibility so that we are not accused that the selection of Surabaya was a mistake."

Dr. Haryono Su yono announced that the mayor of Surabaya City has given his consent to making Surabaya a pilot city in AUICK's Asia-Pacific Regional Mayors' Networking Project. Surabaya and Khon Kaen in Thailand will be the first pilot cities in this AUICK urban development project.

In addition to developing with AUICK an international network-building project with various Asian countries, Surabaya is also involved in network-building with other cities and kabupatens (regencies) within Indonesia. Surabaya is playing the role of liaison for this network-building, as the city is already a member of both international and domestic networks. The project secretariat is located at the newly created International Institute for Human Development (IIHD) at Airlangga University in Surabaya. Twenty state and private universities are also participating in the project. Thus the Surabaya case represents an extensive city university partnership (CUP). The project has also obtained support of the Indonesian Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister of Education. There are plans to hold several seminars in Surabaya to study the use of STELLA modeling. Seminars will also be held in a number of other cities and kabupatens to disseminate the ideas that originated from the AUICK project.

Dr. Haryono explained the priority areas for AUICK and the domestic and international networks. Development programs will have their focus on human resource development. He cited Indonesia's family planning program as an example of a community-based development policy that involved doctors and other health workers as well as the support of religious leaders and NGOs. This type of approach is similar to that used by many international organizations. It is centered on the local community, encourages participation, builds local initiative and assigns the community a specific role in promoting health.

Over the years, policies of this sort have acquired a clearer focus. The UNFPA regards development as something that should always be centered on people, and AUICK and AUICK advisors have welcomed policies that put people at the center of development. People-centered development is different from the development done in the past, which focused more exclusively on increasing physical infrastructure and raising economic output.

Three aspects have now become major foci of development: "people," "environment" and "economic activity" or "micro-economic activity." In Indonesia, poverty declined rapidly from the late 1960s for three decades, but the Asian financial crisis of 1997-98 caused it to rise again. Health, education and other developmental concerns are hampered by poverty. Together with the government, the Indonesians must promote policies that invest in human resources. In 2003 under a special
directives from the president, 22,000 villages were granted development funds, but 43,000 villages were not covered by this funding. Policies for the eradication of poverty have been focusing on women, and many such programs have succeeded in improving the lives of impoverished families. In the present time of increasing regional autonomy, external aid has declined. Currently, kabupaten governments are focusing on community involvement and the effort of provincial governors and city mayors are centered on community development in the villages. The resources for these efforts come from community funds as well as kabupaten's government and private sector capital.

Parallel with economic development, major programs have been aimed at social welfare, public health and education, with a special emphasis on reproductive health. To deal with the problems of reproductive health it is crucial to get young people involved. In Indonesia, various activities are now being carried out involving schools and students. Young people learn about reproductive health and are encouraged to delay marrying until they are older. Children from impoverished families are helped to remain in school as long as possible. In the cities and in villages in the kabupatens the population growth rate among the poor is 50% higher than among those with more wealth and education. The government subsidizes contraceptives to ensure that middle class and poor people can obtain contraceptive supplies for free or at low prices, but such services only reach 10 to 15% of the population.

Airlangga University, together with Universitas Sebelas Maret (UNS), Udayana, Diponegoro, Jenderal Sudirman and Brawijaya Universities, is playing a significant role in strengthening human resources through projects in public health, education and economic independence.

The Mayor of Surabaya sponsors regional as well as international conferences. A conference on activities related to reproductive health is to be held in 2005. At this conference many success stories from Surabaya and other regions will be presented. Furthermore, the positive outcomes in Surabaya and other cities in the network are to be presented at a conference of AUICK Associate City mayors to be held in Kobe in August 2004.

In East Java, the United Nations is funding micro-economic projects. Loans are made to community groups in the villages, especially to women as they spend a comparatively high proportion of their money on health and education. Such groups may be made up of women who participate actively in economic activities to help eradicate poverty. Women who previously were not eligible to receive loans are now able to access funding.

Women's life expectancy is increasing and they are contributing in more and more fields of economic activity. AUICK believes that reproductive health is an important issue that should be promoted through Indonesia's urban and kabupaten networks.

As AUICK's new strategic project proposal for 2004-2007 has been approved by UNFPA, Surabaya will have a closer relationship with AUICK through its capacity building programs. From now on our training programs will be organized with a different concept from what we have usually done. Dr. Haryono expects that we will widen the activities of our organization by having relationships with several medium-sized cities in Indonesia. He also expects that Surabaya city officials who visited Kobe will apply what they learned and saw in Kobe to their actual policy-making, and implement it in their relevant services in Surabaya City.

**Dr. Kunto's presentation**

Dr. Kunto made a presentation on the model to reduce child and infant mortality among impoverished families in Surabaya City.

The infant mortality rate in Indonesia is 38 per 1,000 births, which is about the average for all Southeast Asia. Indonesia ranks 7th of the 12 countries in the region. Those with lower rates include Singapore (5), Brunei (9), Malaysia (10), Thailand (24), Philippines (29) and Vietnam (36). For the whole of Indonesia, the percentage of deaths among newborns is 59%. 79.4 percent of these deaths occur within seven days of birth, and 20.6 percent between the eighth and 28th day. The death rate immediately after birth is 1.58%. The main causes of death up to the seventh day are low birth weight (35%) and suffocation (33.6%). Between the eighth and 28th day the main cause of death is infectious disease. The mortality rate for infants between 1 and 4 years old is 17 per 1,000. The mortality rate for infants under age 5 for impoverished families in Java and Bali is 52 per 1,000. Although lower than the infant mortality rate in rural areas, the urban infant mortality rate is still high. In the Surabaya region it is estimated to be 39 per 1,000. Lack of public health facilities and health services, heredity and combinations of these factors are thought to be the main causes of the high infant mortality rates.

Research topics for the future include the following:

1. How far are genetic factors or customary practices contributing to the infant mortality rate in Surabaya City?
2. How can infant and child deaths among impoverished families in Surabaya City be reduced?
3. How to use the national-domestic network to communicate success stories to other cities and.
4. How to transmit this information on the international network is now being studied?

**Comments from the past participants**

As part of AUICK's commitments to provide appropriate technical knowledge, the Secretariat continually obtains feedback on the usefulness of training courses. Former participants also make suggestions for future AUICK activities. The following observations and suggestions were made by Surabaya officials.

"I saw that Kobe’s water resource management is totally different from what we have in Indonesia, especially in the utilization of water in terms of transport and distribution. I think Indonesia is still way behind. I presented a report to the mayor on what I saw there and my suggestions of what we can improve here. We are lacking expert staff for effective planning of reservoir construction and so on. We tend to send people of high rank to do training overseas, but I think it will be better if we can send those who work in the field, because they really know what is happening."

Mr. Musdijq Ali Subudi, Head, Section of City Planning Preparation, attended the 1997 Seminar on Housing, and learned about the construction of new residential areas.

"I saw that Kobe lacked housing for the elderly. Kobe has totally different problems than here. In Surabaya, we have a problem of making new housing areas for those who still don’t have a place to live. We still have people who live in inadequate locations and conditions."

"I learned how the Kobe city government was able to persuade citizens to give up some of their land so the government could build new apartment buildings. That program was successfully completed. In Surabaya we had a similar project, but people here still have a way of thinking that they do not want to live in an apartment building. They still think that it’s better to live in a house, even if that house is small and of poor quality."

"We only have two types of apartments in Surabaya: (1) high-rise buildings that are nice and expensive so only the rich can afford them; and (2) high-rise apartment buildings that are of poor quality. I think our government has to solve this problem by building a middle range of apartment buildings that have a good image. They must also promote the quality of living in an apartment."

"I saw how successful Kobe city has been in its reclaimed-land projects, such as Rokko Island and Port Island. They are man-made islands having lots of apartment buildings on them. The Surabaya government has tried to make "new cities" in the suburban area, but the problem is that lots of people prefer to live in the middle of the city, which I think is a problem of public transportation."

Ms. Erna Purnawati, Head, Sub Department of Laboratory, Environmental Department, attended the 2001 Seminar on Population and Solid Waste Management.

"In Kobe they have the same waste disposal system in every single house: "burnable" and "unburnable" waste is separated. They also have high-tech waste depots, which are all computerized and totally different from ours. We always have a problem with waste depots, which are never big enough. I think now this is our challenge, to keep recycling everything as much as we can, and reduce waste."

Mr. Samsul Ariffin, Head of Administration Division, Food Establishment Dept., attended the Tenth Workshop in 2003 on Population and Sustainable Development.

"There is a lot of citizen participation in city programs in Kobe, especially after the earthquake in 1995. I went to Shiawase-no-mura, where I was very impressed by the city government programs which trained all the elderly and pensioners to use skills such as farming and gardening. What I see happening in Surabaya to all the elderly people is that when they are over 70 years old, their families won’t let them do very much at all, and they keep them inactive and inside the house. Concerning the education in the schools, I saw how the children in Kobe are already learning about new technologies and they are also very active in the school with weekend sports and other activities. In Surabaya we are still stuck with the old way of doing things. I hope AUICK will have a training program concerning education."

Dr. Muhlas Udin, Assistant Secretary, Development Administration, attended the 1998 Seminar on Population and the Environment and the Study Course on ICPD and Health Care in 1998.

"I was really struck with the cleanliness of Kobe City, where there is almost no rubbish on any street. The people know how to recycle all of the rubbish and waste they produce. From what we saw there, my team and I have made a plan to aim for zero waste in Surabaya. The plan consists of three phases: (1) Soak waste in some chemicals so that it can be burned; (2) Make deposits to burn waste to produce energy; (3) Convert household waste into compost fertilizer. While construction will start in 2004, sales of fertilizer will commence after three months. However, the electricity projects will require up to 18 months for construction."
Chittagong, Bangladesh (25 February 2004)

An AUICK delegation, consisting of Dr. Prem P. Talwar, IAC Member, Mr. Yasuyuki Ishitsubo, Executive Director; Mr. Nobuyuki Morimoto, Manager, visited Chittagong, Bangladesh, from 24 to 26 February 2004. In the afternoon of 25 February at a conference room of the Chittagong City Corporation Building, they had a monitoring meeting with the mayor and senior officials who had participated in AUICK’s past training courses.

Mr. A.B.M. Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Mayor of Chittagong, Mr. expressed thanks to AUICK for building capacity of his staff members. He took pride in telling that his staff members returned from AUICK training with new ideas and necessary motivation. They took several actions for better planning and management of the services they were responsible for. He expressed hope that such activity of AUICK will continue in the future as well, and thus help Chittagong in improving its services.

Mr. Ishitsubo expressed thanks to the Mayor for sparing his precious time to meet the delegation. He explained the purpose of the visit, and extended the invitation to the Mayor for participation in the Mayors Conference in Kobe at the end of July 2004.

Dr. Talwar gave detailed description of the new project and new strategy which AUICK is going to follow in its next project during the cycle 2004-2007. All the important features of the strategy were described, particularly (1) the relationship of Chittagong as AUICK Associate City, (2) close collaboration with UNFPA, and (3) preparation of action plan during training period to strengthen its services. It was pointed out that a continuous contact will be maintained with Chittagong through regular visits.

The mayor was pleased and interested in the new AUICK strategic project of 2004-2007, and particularly appreciated that the new project would provide Chittagong City with an opportunity to become a model city in urban planning as one of nine AUICK Associate Cities (AACs).

Comments from the past participants

Mr. Shawkat Mostafa, Deputy Secretary to Mayor, attended the 1998 Seminar on Population, Primary Health Care and Reproductive Health and the 2002 Seminar on Population Ageing and Administrative Countermeasures.

On behalf of all the past Chittagong participants, he expressed great satisfaction with what they had received, and indicated that they implemented some of the ideas received during the training period in their own city planning.

"Kobe experience on 'Silver College' and other elderly homes is rare experience for us. Also, solid waste management, sewage treatment and managing parks and gardens, Coop Kobe for collecting solid waste from various super markets and other facilities are wonderful experience for me."

"A participant from Ipoh City in Malaysia described about a healthy city program and how they created a healthy atmosphere, converting Ipoh City into a "Garden City. After discussions with the Mayor of Chittagong City, we introduced a small door to door garbage collection in a ward area out of 41 wards by the initiative of our mayor. We also introduced three rickshaw vans for collecting street waste and solid refuse from the main highway of the city."
Dr. Shahana Perveen, Director, Midwifery Institute, attended the 1999 Seminar on Primary Health Care and Reproductive Health.

"As the director of the Midwifery Institute, I had an opportunity to implement my knowledge and experience that I acquired from the seminar. We are primarily engaged in the training and capacity building of young girls for midwives, who are coming from less privileged and low income societies of the country. I think, this is a kind of direct approach for the empowerment of women folk. After receiving their academic training from this institute, our midwives are being employed in different government and non-government organizations under the health sector in the country. Through their services, these midwives are directly engaged with a maternal and child health care facility in urban areas to reduce the maternal and child mortality of the county."

Dr. Salim A. Khushri Chowdhury, Health Officer, attended the Study Course on ICPD and Health Care in 1998.

"As the Health Officer of the City, I have been working for the prevention against HIV/AIDS. Fortunately, Bangladesh so far has escaped the worst ravage of HIV/AIDS. However, the spread of infection is rapidly increasing, and high positive HIV prevalence areas account, altogether, great potential for the poor Bangladesh to be a HIV/AIDS prone country in very near future. Therefore, I have a great hope that AUICK will organize a workshop on Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS in the near future."

He also reported that he recently engaged in HIV/AIDS research project donated by Germany through GTZ.

Mr. Sayed Hasan Mahmood Chowdhury, Assistant Private Secretary to Mayor, attended the 2000 Seminar on Public Utilities in Asian Cities.

"After coming back from AUICK Seminar where I had a lot of experience about sewage system waste disposal, water and environmental projects of Kobe, I was closely associated with the decision making process along with the Mayor in undertaking similar projects of Chittagong."

"In Chittagong City, we are going to implement a solid waste management project where we would be able to produce power and organic fertilizers from the recycling of city garbage. This is going to be a milestone in the solid waste management of Bangladesh."

"In the field of clean water and environmental pollution control sector, we are going to achieve tremendous achievements very shortly. Through motivation and preservation activities of Chaktai Khal, the major canal flowing through the central high density areas of the city. This canal was a threat of the overall environment as well as the urban population living on both the banks for more than two decade."

Mr. Saifuddin Mahmood Katibi, Chief Conservancy Officer, attended the 2001 Seminar on Population and Solid Waste Management.

"I learned a lot from training specially about the solid waste management aspect of Kobe city. Moreover, I have an opportunity to learn that city waste could be converted to resources through recycling. That's why we are also encouraged to implement a similar waste recycling project for Chittagong City Corporation at Halishahar Region of the city. We hope this would go for operation soon and we would be able to generate power and fertilizer through this process."


Since he attended the most recent seminar held in early December 2003, he did not have adequate opportunity to implement any project based on what he learned during the training. Instead, he reported what he was tackling in his current position.

"Presently, Chittagong City Corporation is trying to develop a water preserver in between the hilly areas located at the north-western part of the city to overcome the crisis of drinking water. This can be implemented easily with constructing water structures between the hills and obstructing rain water accordingly. As a result, supply of natural drinking water along with agro forestry, fishery and tourism can be ensured."

The past participants also suggested there was a need to increase the duration of the training course from 8-10 days to between three and four weeks. It was suggested that the location of training courses should not be limited to Kobe, and should also be held in other AUICK Associate Cities. It was felt that this would give trainees an opportunity to become more familiar with the problems and strategies that individual cities and countries are adopting to solve their urban problems.
The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment from Chittagong officials to collaborate more closely with AUICK and other AACSs on the new strategic project for 2004-2007, which is based on the realization of UNFPA Millennium Development Goals in nine cities of Asia.

Chennai, India (27 February 2004)

Leaving Chittagong, the Kobe delegation visited Chennai, India, from 26 to 28 February 2004. In the afternoon of 27 February at a conference room of the Chennai Corporation Building, they had a monitoring meeting with the Commissioner and five senior officials of the Chennai Corporation.

Mr. M. P. Vijayakumar, Commissioner of Chennai, fully endorsed AUICK's 2004-2007 Strategy, expressing that it is more beneficial to focus on one area to produce results, rather than spreading resources far and wide. Mr. Vijayakumar went further to say,

“If we can pull our resources, focus our attention in one area, then this city can produce results, this is definitely a better strategy for creating urban models. We are very excited to see AUICK is coming forward with such an excellent proposal, which we feel it will greatly benefit us and we would like to make full use of this opportunity. We are doing many things in a very small way, in bits and pieces, in an isolated way, so they all need to be properly integrated and scaled up so the city moves in one direction.”

Chennai officials were very pleased that Chennai had been selected as an AUICK Associate City for the new strategic project of 2004-2007, and committed to work together with AUICK to provide data on their city and to share ideas and knowledge with the other eight AACSs in order to implement the most effective action plans for Chennai. Officials were also excited by the possibility of Chennai becoming a model city for urban planning and management. They assured the delegation that they would come prepared with their own data set to prepare a realistic action plan at the end of the training.

Comments from the past participants

Ms. Apoorva, Joint Commissioner (Health), attended the 2003 Workshop on Population and Sustainable Development.

She expressed her satisfaction with AUICK training courses and acknowledged the benefits brought to Chennai.

She also noted that attending training courses in Kobe, with other planners from throughout Asia, had encouraged Chennai officials to seek new ideas and to share information with other cities to achieve best practice.

Ms. Apoorva also suggested that AUICK invite well-known experts in each field to the AACSs for a short term assignment so that city officials can work closely with them.

“Not only they will be able to share their experiences in the sector but help them in the preparation of action plans for their cities. I feel that only the senior staff of each section that have long-term appointments with the city should be trained. Some bureaucrats in Chennai are frequently transferred. The training of such officials who are on short term appointments with the city would not bring lasting benefits to Chennai.”

Mr. Darmondra Pratap Yadav, Deputy Commissioner (Education), attended the 2002 Seminar on Population Ageing and Administrative Countermeasures.

Implementation of projects based on what participants have learned in AUICK training was exemplified by his following comments.

“Soon after I come back from the seminar, I prepared a concept paper for starting a fully fledged college for senior citizens in Chennai City. The concept paper was circulated widely among corporation officials, government officials, educationalists and voluntary organizations. The concept paper was also submitted to the State Planning Commission through Professor M.S. Swaminathan, a noted agricultural scientist and Vice Chairman of the State Planning Commission. After such detailed discussion the Commission has recommended to the State Government to commence a College for Senior Citizens as part of their overall Senior Citizens Policy.”

He also expressed his opinions about the training courses:

“It will be more appropriate to verify the areas of urban governance which are directly dealt by the local bodies of the participating cities and organize training programs accordingly. Alternatively, AUICK can increase the scope of its partnership in the partner cities to include other...
developmental agencies related to governance of urban issues in the partner cities so that their officials also get benefit by the training program since many of the seminar themes related to agencies other than the urban local body.

"The participants should be called for repeat training and feedback session of short duration at Kobe where they should specify the concrete efforts taken by them to use the knowledge gained during training sessions and enhance their understanding.

Mr. Sankaran Vijayakumar attended the 2000 Seminar on Public Utilities in Asian Cities as Deputy Commissioner (Education, Parks & Play Fields), Chennai Corporation. Now he is Collector & District Magistrate, Ramanathapuram City.

"I found that AUICK training beneficial to our work. I had implemented in my sector thanks to the knowledge, ideas, and experiences gained from AUICK training. I have great satisfaction with the training I received at AUICK. I implemented some of the ideas I received during the training."

Mr. Swaminathan Arumugam, Chief Engineer (General), attended the 2003 Seminar on Population and Sustainable Water Management in Urban Planning.

"I have proposed to share with the experience learned during the training course with the connected officials of the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board on the acute scarcity of water supply in Chennai city which needs to be discussed based on the projects and the implementation of schemes in Kobe City."

He made a suggestion on the period of training courses:

"I feel that two weeks is sufficient time for training if there were a six day working week and longer hours. This would maximize training time without extending the number of days officials are absent from their posts. I also would like to suggest that Sundays be reserved for field visits."

All other ex-trainees also felt that it will not be possible for the senior officers to be away from their work for more than two weeks.

Khon Kaen, Thailand (24 November 2004)

An AUICK delegation, consisted of Mr. Masayuki Ishitsubo, Executive Director, Mr. Nobuyuki Morimoto, Manager, and Ms. Britt Barry, Special Assistant for the English-language documentation, visited Khon Kaen, Thailand from 21 to 25 November 2004. The delegation organized the Second 2004 Workshop on AUICK Associate Cities Research from 22 to the morning of 24 November. In the afternoon of 24 November at a conference room of the Khon Kaen Municipal Building, they had a monitoring meeting with the mayor, two deputy mayors and other senior officials, including nine officials who attended the past AUICK training courses.

The meeting began with welcome remarks made by Mr. Peeraporn Pattanapratej, Mayor of Khon Kaen. He told that Khon Kaen was happy to be involved in the AUICK project, and expressed his hope that future training programs would continue to bring medium-sized cities together as a basis for cooperative development to solve urban problems in the region.

Mr. Masayuki Ishitsubo expressed his appreciation for the warm hospitality received in Khon Kaen. He also acknowledged the long relationship that Kobe has had with Khon Kaen City, and expressed his hope that it will help to lead to a better urban environment for the people of Khon Kaen.
Comments from the Past Participants

Mr. Wittaya Sirichativapee, Director of the Bureau of Public Works of Khon Kaen Municipality, attended the 2000 Seminar on Public Utilities in Asian Cities. His current areas of responsibility include traffic, public garden, solid waste disposal, wastewater treatment and ensuring structures are built according to codes and standards.

Mr. Wittaya found the techniques he learnt for solid waste disposal and wastewater treatment useful in his work for the city. Upon his return to Khon Kaen he shared the information and knowledge gained with his colleagues, and also suggested ways to improve the city's waste management based on information gathered from other city administrators during the training.

"The contents of that seminar emphasized solid waste management and wastewater pollution. Kobe city was very clean and it has a good system of burning waste and many strategies for the management of wastewater. Site visits to observe the landfill system and water pollution management were very useful, and I have adopted this system of landfill to Khon Kaen. Each day we have about 200 tons of garbage we deposit at a landfill site 70 km from the city. Some of this garbage is recycled through a recycling station, while waste that is used as landfill is collected every day. We have also set up a campaign for people to separate their garbage into wet to dry. We learnt that Kobe people are very good at recycling and separating garbage. Now I have joined with another past participant of AUICK training in promoting the production of fertilizer from food waste and we have also brought up these ideas at city meetings on solid waste transportation and transfer stations for recycling."

Mr. Wittaya also explained that since his AUICK training he has been involved in projects for wastewater treatment and in the near future he plans to implement a project for the maintenance of local infrastructure, such as sewer and canal cleaning. Local people in charge of these projects will be paid some small salary which will help motivate them to be responsible for their village infrastructure. Some of the funds for this project will come from Khon Kaen Municipality and it is hoped that this project will solve problems with sewers overfilling or blocking in the rainy season. He also explained how he now encourages more public participation. Every Thursday, for example, Khon Kaen municipal staff go to villages and ask local people about issues such as traffic and electricity. He says it is very useful to get firsthand knowledge of services in local areas and any concerns that residents have.

Ms. Benja Koonklang attended the 1996 Seminar on Public Health and Social Welfare. She was then Director of the Health, Medical and Environment Division. Currently she is Director of the Public Health and Environment Division, Udon Thani Municipality.

In Kobe she saw a well managed health system and high quality hospitals. Since her return to Khon Kaen she has been involved in a project for a mobile health unit whereby doctors and health workers visit local people in rural areas and at schools, and conduct other health programs locally. Newborn babies are also visited and their family is given a gift set with essential items for the baby's health such as soy milk and nutritious supplementary food.

Ms. Patsawadee Chabundit attended the Study Course on ICPD and Health Care in 1998. She was Director of Public Health Division, Khon Kaen Municipality. Now she works in another city.

Ms. Patsawadee said that the seminar was useful as it motivated her to focus more on helping Khon Kaen residents to take care of their health. After the training course Ms. Chabundit focused on making health care more accessible and efficient by offering "one-stop service" and shared the knowledge she had gained from the training with her colleagues.

"During the AUICK seminar we were taught about primary healthcare and we discussed individual responsibility for health. The hospital we visited was the largest in Singapore and was only one year old. It offered a comprehensive service that was truly "one stop service." They had a fully computerized communication system and cars to pick up patients. The hospital environment was very friendly and included a children's club which contributed to the good atmosphere in the hospital. We learnt that in Singapore patients do not wait more than 15 minutes and there is a standardized charge system for services. From that seminar I have learned how to manage health systems, use surveys and I also exchanged lots of knowledge and ideas with other administrators and health officials. From the knowledge I got from the seminar I can train people who come to our local seminars and share the knowledge I now have with other colleagues for better action plans at local levels."
Ms. Woraphan Thuleechan attended two AUICK training courses: the 1997 Seminar on Population and Housing, and the 2004 Second Workshop on AUICK Associate Cities Research. At the 1997 seminar she was a planning and policy analyst. She is currently a general services officer in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

She reported that the Seminar on Population and Housing enabled her to reflect on what problems Khon Kaen has and what the city may face in the future, particularly regarding population. Ms. Woraphan also explained how the training applied to her job then and now:

"In 1997 housing was the responsibility of the municipality but now it is the responsibility of the central government. When I returned from the seminar I tried to collect as much information on population as possible and to make it available internationally. We now make use of that information in urban planning. I have just completed the AUICK STELLA modeling training which will also help with our urban planning and I believe that this training will help the directors of the municipality to set up action plans more effectively."


Mr. Chawalit used knowledge gained from AUICK training courses daily in his work and had subsequently introduced improved technology into the solid waste management system of Khon Kaen.

"From visiting Kobe, I saw there are differences in the composition of garbage between our cities and differences in the disposal processes. There are some similarities between some of the processes, such as burning of garbage, but in Khon Kaen we burn only the infectious garbage. We currently have three ways to manage garbage: sanitary landfill, burning and converting to fertilizer."

Mr. Chawalit suggested that newsletter articles on case studies of solid waste management techniques and applicable technology from different countries would be useful to compare what works for the different conditions found in each country and city. He also suggested that AUICK more frequently exchange news and data on AACS among the cities, and that future training courses be held in cities that demonstrate best practice in the field being studied.

Mr. Yinchai Arnatchanassakun, Director of the Sanitary Works Division, is responsible for solid waste and infectious waste management, wastewater management, flood management and water resource management.

Mr. Yinchai attended the 2003 Seminar on Population and Sustainable Water Resources. He said that he found information on techniques for preservation of the natural environment the most useful knowledge that he gained. Following his training, he presented a report to his colleagues and superiors on the AUICK seminar. Using the knowledge and experience gained from the training, he has implemented a project for improving water quality, has invited public participation on the collection of service charges for wastewater treatment, and has several other ideas for improvements to sanitary works to be implemented in the future. To improve the effectiveness of AUICK activities, he suggested that training courses include many site visits to relevant facilities, such as waste treatment plants, to give a thorough understanding of actual practices.

"At the training last year I received a lot of useful knowledge on how to develop Khon Kaen. Kobe has a good system of information collection, and I learnt about systems of wastewater treatment and water resource management in different places in the world. I was motivated to prepare for problems that might occur in our city. During the training I visited a treatment site at Lake Biwa that used charcoal instead of chlorine, and found that they also have a research centre near the lake to observe pollution levels in the water. It made me aware that it is important to take care of water conditions before problems happen, a proactive strategy, and to not only think about the surface level conditions of water bodies, but also of conditions of the river or lake bed. I thought the seminar was also very useful for sharing good ideas between the participants, as well as sharing the various problems affecting our cities and our different strategies to overcome them. Lastly, what impressed me greatly was the UNFPA forum on water management where I received very useful ideas for public participation involving local people."

Dr. Prathip Rungphetwong is Chief of the Dental Hygiene Section of the Health and Environment Division of Khon Kaen Municipality, and he is also on the Health Care Committee of the City.

Dr. Prathip attended the 2002 Seminar on Population Ageing and Administrative Countermeasures. He reported that he found the seminar to be a good opportunity to exchange ideas and knowledge with other administrators and health professionals. Since the training he has been focusing more on the problems of the elderly in Thailand and he
now knows that 39% of elderly people are living in poverty, another 29% have health problems, and 10% are socially isolated.

The economy is at a point where we are concerned about employment and we are trying to create jobs and provide welfare and subsidies for elderly villagers affected by poverty. We have about 3000 poor elderly people in Khon Kaen but we have to be selective about who we help because of our limited budget. At present we can only provide welfare payments to about 1500 elderly people. The process of distributing this is not directly from the government; instead we ask the local village leaders to decide who has the greatest need. Providing welfare alone is not a very effective way to address poverty, but what is more effective are projects which allow people to help themselves, such as microfinance schemes. The municipality also addresses poverty by acting as a centre for collection of money or goods from private donors and then distributing this to the local people in need.

Dr. Prathip reported that two important concepts which he took away from the training were that local problems need local people to solve them, and that participation of local people in the community is important for this. He also outlined some of the more successful health projects in Khon Kaen, including subsidized doctors visits for all, free examinations for the very poor, a special clinic for elderly people, special clinics for hypertension and diabetes, and a mobile health unit that regularly goes to villages and provides health exams for the rural poor. Khon Kaen also has local outdoor aerobic programs in parks to promote health and the city conducts seminars for local people on health, nutrition and sanitation.

Mr. Yongsak Nuntatikul attended the 1998 Seminar on Integrated Urban Policy as the Director of the Sanitation Works Division of Khon Kaen Municipality.

Mr. Yongsak reported that he learnt a great deal during the training, including information about burning of waste, environmental management and housing. What impressed him most was his site visit to Kobe’s Silver College, where the elderly receive training and education in a number of special interest fields. This program helps to keep older residents from becoming isolated and also stimulates them and gives them a sense of purpose in their latter years. Mr. Yongsak also said that he had reproduced this project upon his return to Khon Kaen and that such local elderly scholars are now called “local philosophers.”

Ms. Saovanee Siriphojananan, Deputy City Clerk, attended the 1999 Seminar on Primary Health Care and Reproductive Health.

Ms. Saovanee noted that comparing the differences in maternal and child health services between Thailand and Japan was very interesting, and it gave her ideas on how to promote health care in Khon Kaen.

“I really enjoyed the trip to the hospitals in Kobe and especially learning about maternal and child services. I learned that the MCH services in Japan ensure Japanese mothers are taken care of from the very first stages of pregnancy right up until after the baby is born. The hospital also told us that the percentage of survival of mother and child is 100%. Of course after delivery some babies have complications but the hospitals are well equipped to take care of babies with congenital illness. In Thailand the situation is very different, though we do have a centre for health care services for women and children in Khon Kaen. We also have some staff that go to local villages to advise pregnant women on their health and to encourage them to come to hospitals for the delivery. More recently we have also been emphasizing sex education to early teenagers in schools.”

Mr. Sunthon Siripukdi, Vice-Governor of Khon Kaen Province, participated in the 1996 Workshop on Integrated Urban Policy. He was unable to attend the monitoring meeting, but on a feedback form that he sent to AUICK, he reported that he had found AUICK training useful in creating sustainable urban development strategies for the Province and had educated his staff on the topic since his training. He has also worked to develop and improve the local transport network as well as the water and electricity supply, encouraged improvements in public health and education; encouraged agricultural and industrial competition, and encouraged the policy of OTOP (One Tambon-One Product) which promotes production of one product per area.
Visits to UNFPA Country Offices

The strengthened linkage with UNFPA country program and national policies is one of the core factors in AUICK's strategy project for the years 2004-2007. From October 2003 to early June 2004, AUICK dispatched a number of delegations, including some IAC members, to every AAC candidate city to negotiate affiliation into the AACs Network with the mayors and administrators. On those occasions the delegation visited the relevant UNFPA Country Offices to discuss the further linkage between UNFPA Country/Regional Program and activities in AACs. AUICK received not only several useful suggestions on better implementation but also indications of some difficulties in adjustments between each party’s program. Most issues had been resolved by the AACs Conference, but some issues are pending. This article is a report on the visits to the relevant UNFPA Country Offices.

Visit to UNFPA China Office

On 21 October 2003, the AUICK delegation, composed of Mr. Kazutoshi Sasayama, Chairman, Mr. Masayuki Ishitsubo, Executive Director, and Mr. Nobuyuki Morimoto, Manager, visited the UNFPA China Office in Beijing, and discussed the new project and the AACs Conference with Ms. Siri Tellier, UNFPA Representative in China.

The delegation explained that AUICK had previously invited 8 senior officials from Tianjin City to training courses, but that AUICK was considering an alternative medium-sized city as a candidate for the AAC network. Tianjin’s rapid growth had pushed the population of over 10 million and enlarged the city beyond the size target for the AAC network. The delegation then requested the cooperation of the UNFPA China Office in selecting a suitable medium-sized city, and preferably one with an international port such as Kobe has. Ms. Tellier agreed to strengthen the linkage between UNFPA China Office and AUICK, and to select an appropriate medium-sized city as an AAC in China.

On 10 March 2004, AUICK formally requested the UNFPA Representative to recommend a candidate city for the AAC in China. The Representative then kindly requested that the National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC) of China, recommend a city. Ms. Zhang Yang, Director of International Organisation Division, acted as a go-between, and recommended three candidates. After due consideration, AUICK decided to enter into an affiliation with Weihai.

On 31 May 2004, Mr. Sasayama, Mr. Ishitsubo, and Mr. Morimoto visited Beijing, China, and met with two senior officials of NPFPC: Dr. Ru Xiaomei, Deputy Director General; and Ms. Zhang Yang, Director, Division of International Organizations, Department of International Cooperation. Dr. Ru Xiaomei expressed her hope for AUICK to have a strong relationship, not only with Weihai city but also with the Chinese Government. At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed that Ms. Zhao Yang will serve as a mediator at a meeting with the Mayor of Weihai the following day.

Following the meeting with the NPFPC officials, the AUICK delegation visited Ms. Siri Tellier, UNFPA Representative in China. After expressing appreciation to her for her support in organizing the meeting, the delegation reported on the meeting with the NPFPC officials.

AUICK emphasized the importance of the attendance of representatives from UNFPA Country Offices as follows: "The promotion between all of the AACs and the relevant UNFPA Country Offices is one of the core factors in our new strategic project. Since the mayors from all AUICK Associate Cities will meet at the AACs Conference, it is of great importance that a representative from each UNFPA Country Office attends the Conference. In addition, to building sustainable development, AUICK would like to invite an assistant representative. The Assistant Representatives knows a great deal about local issues and what’s happening on the ground.

Ms. Siri Tellier agreed to consider carefully the AUICK’s proposal. Then, both parties discussed various issues, including the language communication difficulties of senior Chinese local government officials and assistance from UNFPA China Office.

At the conclusion of the meeting it was proposed that Mr. Yu Yu, National Program Officer of UNFPA China Office,
will be accompanied to the meeting with Dr. Song Yuanfan, Mayor and some senior officials of Weihai to be held on 1 June in Qingdao, where Mayor Song was attending the 3rd APEC Medium & Small Enterprises Technology Conference & Fair.

Visit to UNFPA Malaysia Office

On 5 February 2004, the AUICK delegation, composed of Mr. Kazutoshi Sasayama, Chairman, Mr. Toshiaki Baba, Director, and Mr. Nobuyuki Morimoto, Manager, visited the UNFPA Malaysia Office, and discussed the new project and the planned AACs Conference with Ms. Yeoh Yeok Kim, UNFPA Assistant Representative in Malaysia.

Ms. Kim made a number of comments at the meeting as summarized below:

- She emphasized the importance of reproductive health and gender issues, and said she was very pleased to see them specifically noted as focus areas.
- Ms. Kim suggested that her office will liaise with the NGO's and NPO's that are invited to be involved in the process.
- Malaysian mayors, or governors, do not currently meet in any group setting. She said AUICK's mayor's conference could serve as a model that could lead to a national conference in Malaysia.
- Ms. Kim praised the strategy to focus on medium-sized cities, noting they can serve as a model for smaller cities and towns.
- She also noted that if AUICK could provide financial assistance for the implementation of the plans, it would be helpful. The AUICK delegation indicated that AUICK's mission is providing technical assistance to help improve cities in Malaysia through AUICK training and it would also consider how to raise funds to improve cities in cooperation with other countries.
- Ms. Kim inquired about whether AUICK staff has expertise in technical areas. The AUICK delegation replied that AUICK has access to those Kobe city personnel with technical expertise to serve as lecturers in the training courses.

Visit to UNFPA Vietnam Office

On 9 February 2004, Mr. Sasayama, Mr. Baba, and Mr. Morimoto visited the UNFPA Vietnam Office in Hanoi, Vietnam, and met with Mr. Omer Er tur, UNFPA Representative in Vietnam.

Mr. Ertur thanked Mr. Sasayama and AUICK for embarking on the new project, and said that the UNFPA would definitely be a part of the effort. He also indicated that Danang is the appropriate city to add to the program. He was pleased that the AUICK mission visited Vietnam for future collaboration with the country through Danang City.

Points made by the UNFPA Representative in Vietnam included:

- Urbanization is a concern in Vietnam as many cities are growing increasingly fast. UNFPA is the lead agency in studying migration patterns in Vietnam. One of the first signs of migration from rural to urban areas is squatter settlements in the cities. Past governments did not pay enough attention to in-migration to the cities.
- Housing is a major problem in urban areas of Vietnam. The city has improved tremendously over the past 5 years but there is a problem of urbanization in Vietnam exemplified by Danang. Hardly 20 percent of the population in Vietnam is urban but it is increasing rapidly. There is a significant movement now from rural to urban areas. This movement is causing the formation of squatter settlements as they come to work in the cities causing housing problems. One of the major problems in growing cities is that many people have trouble finding a place to live and Mr. Ertur requested to ensure housing problems be included in AUICK's analysis.
- The Mayors' conference was an excellent idea to highlight urbanization as an important issue. Urban planning would be a failure without paying attention to who is migrating and identifying the social services available for these people. It was noted that starting from the top is necessary.
- The decision to focus on medium-sized cities was excellent. Big-city problems are colossal and that the small cities can cope and AUICK's contribution will be to make medium-sized cities better places to live.
- Mr. Ertur also mentioned that his office can assist with the selection of Vietnamese to attend training sessions, and also with follow-up on implementation.
- The Vietnamese Government has a heavy emphasis on
centralization. Local governments have no special emphasis on urban issues. There is a tendency to follow the former policy of retaining people in rural areas, so as not to interrupt agricultural activity. There is no Ministry of Urbanization in Vietnam and that a mayors’ conference would be required. Vietnam should have a metropolitan mayors’ meeting to discuss problems. Mr. Ertur said, Vietnamese mayors, or governors, do not meet in any formal group setting and that AUICK’s mayor’s conference could serve as a model that could lead to a national conference in Vietnam.

Meeting with UNFPA Representative in Indonesia

On 21 February 2004, in Bali, Indonesia, Mr. Ishitsubo and Mr. Morimoto met and discussed the new project and the AACs Conference with Dr. Bernard Coquelin, UNFPA Representative in Indonesia.

Discussing the linkage between AUICK’s programs and UNFPA programs, the Representative made the following points:

· It is sometimes difficult for the Indonesia Office to provide comments on participants nominated for AUICK training as the UNFPA program may not cover that specific field and therefore the office is not always familiar with them;
· The Office obtains much of the information from the AUICK website for its own planning purposes;
· It is often difficult to link the UNFPA country program and the AUICK program because, for example, the country program had already determined outputs and framework before the AUICK program was approved. The only way that the Office can use the outcome of the AUICK program is to duplicate the process in another city;
· AUICK should visit the UNFPA Country Directors to discuss their programs, and let them discuss with the central government how to link the programs;
· The selection process of participants for AUICK training sometimes results in political people being sent, not technical people; and
· The long term planning schedules of AUICK and the UNFPA need to be synchronized so that they can use each other’s inputs and outputs in planning processes.

Ms. Tehera Ahmed was designated as the UNFPA Liaison Officer for AUICK activities. The choice of UNFPA Assistant Representative as a liaison was thought to be beneficial for establishing continuity in the coordination and cooperation between AUICK and UNFPA Bangladesh. UNFPA Bangladesh was enthusiastic about collaboration with AUICK as they were already working to help Bangladesh to achieve MDG goals of reduced maternal mortality through a current project. A computer presentation was given to AUICK, displaying the fruitful efforts that UNFPA Bangladesh are embarking upon to achieve these goals.

Dr. Mukherjee assured the delegation of the support of UNFPA to achieve result-based goals of the new AUICK project, particularly as the UNFPA goals in Chittagong coincide with those of AUICK. She arranged Dr. Raffiq Sultan, National Professional Project Person to accompany the AUICK delegation to Chittagong and show them a vocational aid center which he took care of.

The UNFPA Bangladesh office was already aware of AUICK training activities as they had been providing suggestions for suitable Bangladesh local government officials for training in Kobe. The staff of UNFPA Country Office in Bangladesh appreciated that AUICK took time to visit the personnel and build a stronger relationship between the two organizations.

Visit to UNFPA Bangladesh Office

On 24 February 2004, Dr. Talwar, Mr. Ishitsubo and Mr. Morimoto visited the UNFPA Bangladesh Office in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and discussed the new project and the AACs Conference with Ms. Suneeet Mukherjee, Representative in Bangladesh. UNFPA senior staff members also attended the meeting.

AUICK announced that the city selected in Bangladesh for the Conference was Chittagong, and that great efforts would be made to make it a model city, with improved planning and improvement in the access and quality of services. The UNFPA Country Representative in Bangladesh endorsed the choice of the city; and pointed out that UNFPA was already working in Chittagong on urban health through Ms. Tehera Ahmed, Assistant Representative, and Dr. Raffiq Sultan. The efforts of UNFPA and AUICK in Chittagong will also be coordinated so that better results can be achieved. Dr. Raffiq Sultan was also sent to Chittagong with the AUICK group to show the activities of the UNFPA Country Program.
**Visit to UNFPA India Office**

On 1 March 2004, Dr. Talwar, Mr. Ishitsubo and Mr. Morimoto visited the UNFPA India Office in New Delhi, India. The meeting was held with Ms. Ena Singh, Assistant Representative, and Ms. Shachi Grover, Program Officer.

After AUICK’s explanation on the new project and the AAC’s Conference, some discussion was held on the choice of Chennai as an Associate City. It was explained that the choice of Chennai was based on its responsive nature in earlier training courses, and also that, like Kobe, it was a port city.

The idea of tackling urban problems was greatly appreciated by UNFPA India. There is a need to strengthen program activities in the cities, and it felt that capacity building could contribute greatly to this. The UNFPA staff was impressed by the strategy of using training as a forum to share experiences in urban planning and management and appreciated the idea of development of action plans under the supervision of experts. AUICK’s efforts were greatly appreciated by UNFPA India.

Regarding participation in the Mayor’s Conference in Kobe, the representation of UNFPA India would be decided by the new UNFPA representative in April. Meanwhile, Ms. Shachi Grover was designated to be a contact person for AUICK.

**Dr. Iqbal Secures Faisalabad Affiliation**

The AUICK IAC member in Pakistan is Dr. M. A. Kareem Iqbal, former Federal Secretary Member, Sindh Local Government Commission. AUICK entrusted him to negotiate with Faisalabad Tehsil Administration, UNFPA Pakistan Office and an appropriate academic institute to be involved in the new project. On 7 April 2004, Dr. Iqbal visited the UNFPA Pakistan Office in Islamabad, and met with Dr. Olivier Brasseur, UNFPA Representative in Pakistan.

Dr. Iqbal explained the new project to Dr. Brasseur who expressed his gratitude for the efforts made by AUICK in the field of population and development within the goals set by the ICPD.

Dr. Brasseur then explained the Country Program Action Plan (CPAP) 2004-2008 for Pakistan, and the Program for Cooperation between the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and UNFPA. The CPAP takes note of the national reform process, particularly decentralization, and emphasizes a district specific approach. Ten districts were selected by the Government and UNFPA for inclusion in the Country Program. Unfortunately Faisalabad is not one of the ten. However, since there are some areas of common interest and goals between UNFPA and AUICK, Dr. Brasseur was prepared to consider AUICK’s request for collaboration.

On 25 May 2004, Dr. Iqbal visited Faisalabad with Ms. Shaheda Fazil, UNFPA Assistant Representative in Pakistan. They met with Mr. A. M. Muntaz Ali Cheema, Tehsil Nazim of Tehsil Municipal Administration Faisalabad, and then with two academics of University of Agriculture Faisalabad: Dr. Bashir Ahmad, Vice Chancellor; and Dr. Asghar Cheema, Dean & Head of Department of Sociology. All four parties - UNFPA, AUICK, Faisalabad Administration, and the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, reached an agreement to work together in collaboration and in accordance with UNFPA-AUICK guidelines.
Committee Meetings

Executive Committee

■ Regular Meeting on 24 March 2005 ■

The AUICK Executive Committee held the second regular meeting for FY 2005 on 24 March 2005. Following an opening remark made by Mr. Kazutoshi Sasayama, Chairman of AUICK, the Secretariat presented a report on budget and activity plans for FY2005. It was unanimously approved by the Committee.

Members Attended:

Takashi Iga (Chair)
Professor Emeritus, Kobe University

Shozo Takayose
Professor, Himeji Dokkyo University

Kiyoko Ikegawa
President, Kobe City College of Nursing

Chen Raiting
Professor, University of Hyogo

Iwao Mizohashi
Executive Director, Kobe New Town Development Center Co., Ltd.

Kazutoshi Sasayama
Chairman, AUICK

Masayuki Ishitsubo
Executive Director, AUICK

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

■ Annual Meeting ■

The International Advisory Committee (IAC) held an annual meeting over two sessions on 7 March 2005, at the conference room of the office. The meeting was attended by seven regular members and Dr. Giridhar, the UNFPA Country Representative in Thailand and Director of UNFPA Country Support Team in Bangkok. The main objective of the meeting was to deliberate on the baseline survey reports compiled by the nine AUICK Associate Cities (AACs) as part of the 2004-2007 strategy and also establish concrete methods for monitoring and evaluation.

1. First Session

Mr. Kazutoshi Sasayama, Chairman of AUICK, opened the meeting by welcoming the IAC members and especially Dr. Giridhar, who attended the meeting on behalf of Mr. Kinjo Waki, Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA. Mr. Sasayama remarked that a number of significant activities were undertaken in 2004 including the AAC Mayors Conference. He informed the IAC members with appreciation that after finishing the first year of the Strategic Project successfully, the UNFPA had approved funding for AUICK for 2005. He was pleased to report that the UNFPA Executive Director complimented AUICK in his recent meeting with her in Tokyo, saying that it is doing an excellent job with its rich technical knowledge and experience in the field of population and development. Mr. Sasayama also pointed out that while AUICK has successfully implemented its program in the first year, there are some pending issues to be discussed by the IAC members, such as workshops and monitoring of the AUICK program implementation during the 2005-2008 period.

Dr. Giridhar expressed that the UNFPA is fortunate to be associated with AUICK and that he was pleased to be representing Mr. Waki at this meeting. He reported that the UNFPA is currently supporting eight regional projects across Asia and that AUICK is one of the leading programs. The UNFPA has been concerned about regional projects not being closely connected with the country programs, and it would be extremely beneficial if these were better synchronized. More linking of regional projects is also desired. Dr. Giridhar also mentioned that the current AUICK project is unique in a sense that few projects address the present constraints facing cities in attaining their future goals. Another unique aspect is that the UNFPA is only a small financial and technical contributor of AUICK, while the City of Kobe has been a major supporter, making the project sustainable on the long run.

Baseline Surveys and City-University Partnerships (CUPs)

Dr. Ness introduced the topic by stating that meaningful basic data collection and analysis requires CUPs. The Committee noted that Faisalabad developed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the city and a university to formalize a CUP while Chennai formed a viable collaborative relationship without any formal written agreement. The Committee also noted significant developments in Surabaya where a CUP involving two rounds of STELLA training sessions took place with the technical assistance of Dr. Ness. It was reported that the CUP was extended to other cities in East Java with the dynamic leadership of Dr. Haryono. The Committee was concerned, however, with general absence of data on CUPs from Khon Kaen, Olongapo and Danang. The Secretariat noted that it was receiving data from Danang. The Committee acknowledged that in order to promote active CUPs there have to be (1) genuine involvement of IAC members especially in the AACs that are located in the countries of the IAC members; (2) appropriate
technical support from IAC members; and (3) timely visits by the AUICK Secretariat.

The Committee made the following recommendations: (1) Each IAC member is requested to review the baseline data/studies of their respective AAC plus an additional AAC; (2) IAC members are urged to help coordinate the AUICK project with the UNFPA country programs, in particular the Thai and the Indonesian country programs which are currently being developed; (3) IAC members may be asked to visit the AACs that have not compiled sufficient baseline data and provide necessary support and technical assistance; and (4) to further promote CUPS, articles on this topic will be produced for the AUICK Newsletter and website.

The Secretariat distributed a matrix showing which cities had completed various parts of the data collection for the first study on urban MDGs. The Committee noted the great differences in the amount of work done at this time. Chittagong, Weihai, Chennai, Surabaya and Kuantan had submitted fairly complete reports, including information on city governance and major projects, and much of the MDG data specified in the original plan. Faisalabad has submitted MDG data, but does not yet have a full report. Olongapo City has provided some MDG data and a brief of city governance. Khon Kaen has not yet provided any MDG data, or any report on city governance and major projects. Danang provided some data which seemed to be derived from another report, hence not in accordance with the study guidelines.

One of the problems noted was the shortage of data at the city level. This is especially troublesome as most governments in the region are now pressing for more decentralization and devolution of authority, placing responsibility and demand for initiative in the hands of the provinces, districts and municipalities. With inadequate data at the local level, it is difficult for urban administrators to make adequate plans for addressing such problems as the promotion of MDGs. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse offered to assist in Danang, and in view of Dr. Haryono's excellent work done in Surabaya, the Secretariat may consider asking him to provide some assistance.

To help facilitate local-level data collection, AUICK had proposed that each of the cities develop a CUP, as described in AUICK's Five Cities book. Some of the cities have made good progress in this area. The most advanced at this time in Surabaya, where an MOU has been signed between Airlangga and other universities, the City of Surabaya and the Governor of East Java. Airlangga is taking the lead in training other university and city personnel in the use of STELLA modelling and in various aspects of data gathering.

Kuantan has established a good working relationship with Malaysia's International Islamic University (IIUM), which has a campus in Kuantan. Dr. Ness reported that he visited Kuantan and IIUM before the IAC meeting. He met the new Chairman of the Town Council, Dato Wan Mohamad Mukhtar bin Mohd. They discussed AUICK, and Dr. Ness suggested the Chairman consider how AUICK's training and research capacities can be utilised to further his own plans for the city.

Dr. Prem P. Talwar reported that a good working relationship has been established between the Madras Institute of Technology and the city government in Madras. A draft MOU has been prepared. Dr. Talwar was concerned about the quality of the data available, and suggested that the CUP will require some financial support.

Faisalabad has developed a good working relationship with the Faisalabad Agricultural University.

IAC members agreed that AUICK must find ways to encourage the formation of CUPS more effectively. Dr. Krasae is in a good position to assist the CUP formation in Khon Kaen and he will do what he can. Other cities without IAC members may need some special assistance. This should be a topic for the secretariat and the IAC to review further.

Relating to the formation of CUPS, there are a good opportunities for closer cooperation between AUICK and the UNFPA regional and country programs. IAC members are urged to help keep communication lines open between the Associate Cities and the UNFPA country representatives.

Dr. Kuroda remarked that in spite of the difficulties AUICK should try to obtain more in- and out-migration data within each AAC. As mentioned, the data required for the baseline surveys was not always available at the city level. National-level data available from central governments, on the other hand, may not be wholly applicable. It was re-emphasized that CUPs can be very useful mechanisms to enable data collection. On this issue, Dr. Haryono was pleased to report that working with the city government in Surabaya and a visit from the AUICK Secretariat have substantially helped to build CUPS. Meetings with former Surabaya participants from AUICK workshops have testified that Surabaya enjoys great cooperation between the city and universities. In fact, Surabaya has been successful in forming coalitions with up to 20 universities, and that number is expected to grow. The Committee was gratified that such a number of partnerships have been formed in Surabaya and hoped that this achievement serves as a model for other AACs to strive for.

Dr. Giridhar reported that the UNFPA supports regional projects as they are the seeds for best practices at the country level. It was noted that it is critical to ensure all efforts are synchronized. In this regard, IAC members agreed that AUICK's country level activities should be synchronized with UNFPA country program cycles, particularly in the Thai and Indonesian programs, and that information flow between regional and country projects be encouraged.

He also mentioned that while the AUICK project alone cannot achieve MDGs in AACs, the baseline reports contribute to meeting the MDGs. He suggested that AUICK focus more on capacity building at the top level and the university level, to enable the AACs to double their capacity initially, and then expand into other areas of
the country. Dr. Ness noted that the goals of the survey are grand and modest; modest in the sense that cities are able to see where they are now in the relevant policy areas and able to take corrective actions. Moreover, the aim is to give more power through the project by dispersing it and devolving responsibility to local governments to enable them to address the problems identified in the baseline survey.

**II. Second Session**

The afternoon session focused on case studies, workshops and monitoring methods.

**Case Studies**

It was suggested that case studies of best practices be coordinated with the training workshops as much as possible. The main themes of the workshops should also reflect the MDGs as much as possible. Accordingly, it was reiterated that the first case study to be developed will be on HIV/AIDS prevention especially for urban youths. The Committee agreed that the first workshop in 2005 be on HIV/AIDS and will be held in conjunction with the 7th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) in Kobe in July 2005.

It was also suggested that the case study be prepared before the workshop in which participants are expected to develop their respective city action plans. The action plans can also serve as basic tools to monitor the effect of the workshop. While the IAC had recommended that case studies be developed on water management and solid waste management, in view of the new workshop program, a case study on education, employment and urban poor will be developed in 2005. Surabaya, Chittagong and possibly Khon Kaen will provide case studies on Reproductive Health. Chennai and Chittagong may provide case studies on education for urban poor. The outline for case studies prepared by the Secretariat with the assistance of Dr. Talwar was endorsed by the IAC provided it would be used flexibly. It was further agreed that Dr. Talwar act as the focal point for reviewing the case studies while other IAC members will also review them as appropriate.

**Courtesly Call on Mayor of Kobe**

After the conclusion of the morning session, the IAC members made a courtesy call on the Mayor of Kobe, Mr. Tatsuo Yada, for an exchange of views. During the meeting IAC members also expressed their appreciation to him for the support Kobe City has given to AUICK for many years.

**Workshops**

Dr. Giridhar suggested that AUICK workshop topics in accordance with UNFPA country programs should always interlink with population change. He highlighted the importance of distinguishing between learning and training, with the former being more passive. He also mentioned that some cities will have a particular concern such as family planning programs, while other cities may wish to move on to other issues. IAC members felt that there should be greater involvement from UNFPA in the workshop process to ensure maximum benefit.

A discussion followed on how to select the most appropriate workshop participants, in which suggestions ranged widely. It was suggested that they be the head of the relevant department with a guarantee from the mayor that he/she will retain the position in the long run, and that the liaison officer be mobilized and keep the UNFPA country office informed. It was recommended that the concerned IAC member should be informed of the progress and shall intervene if required. It was decided that the liaison officer be kept in the process in order to maximize his/her involvement and utility in the project.

It was agreed that future workshops should stress "learning" rather than "teaching" which has been the focus in the past. They are to facilitate participants to identify problems and develop task plans which they would take back to their respective cities for possible implementation. As noted earlier, it is extremely difficult if not impossible for the AUICK workshops alone to help AACs achieve MDGs, especially poverty reduction. It was also suggested that the future workshops concentrate on population-related issues for the urban poor.
The IAC considered the most appropriate topics for the six workshops to be undertaken in the current UNFPA funding period for the three years from 2005-2007. For each workshop, the IAC also suggested countries that could provide useful case studies. The following topics and case study countries were tentatively agreed upon.

2005:
1. Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS, with a focus on urban adolescents
   Case studies: Surabaya, Chittagong and Khon Kaen
2. Education, universal primary education, education for girls
   Case studies: Chennai, Chittagong and Surabaya

2006:
1. Empowerment of women: employment and micro credit
   Case study: Chittagong
2. Water and water management
   Case study: Chennai, water harvesting

2007:
1. Environment and environmental protection, waste management, parks and recreation
   Case studies: Khon Kaen's "garbage bank"
2. Traffic flows, parking and air quality
   Case studies: none specified

**Monitoring**

The IAC recommended that universities should be involved in the monitoring process, as monitoring is not only capacity building of the individual, but also that of institutions. Monitoring is a negotiated process. It was noted that there should be continual communication from the outset between the monitor and those monitored.

The main instrument of monitoring has been visits by AUICK staff members to interview the past AUICK project participants as well as their peers and supervisors. While it is now easier to follow up on the workshop participants mainly because of the concentration of the AUICK activities in the nine AACs, it was reiterated that the AUICK project be linked with the UNFPA country programs to a greater extent. The Committee further suggested that alumni associations of the AUICK AAC workshop participants might be developed, which could possibly use electronic newsletters or a column in the AUICK Newsletter as a mode of communication.

**Publications**

The AUICK Secretariat reported that the current cost of producing hard copy newsletters is a concern. IAC members recommended exploring the possibility of outsourcing, perhaps to Bangkok with the help of the Asian Forum on Parliamentarians on Population and Development which is one of the eight regional projects supported by the UNFPA. In order to increase the involvement of the liaison officers, it was suggested they be asked to send population related information for publication and that any articles received by the Secretariat should be quickly uploaded onto AUICK's website. Other suggestions include a newsletter article on the creation of alumni associations and a brief article on the more qualitative and narrative baseline surveys.

The second book by AUICK, *Asian Urbanization in the New Millennium*, will be published at the end of March and available for distribution in early April. The Secretariat will receive approximately 325 copies. Free copies will also be sent to the senior author of each chapter and to the editors.

A newsletter article on CUPs will be prepared by IAC members in which an opening statement will be provided by Dr. Ness, and brief descriptions will be provided on Chennai by Dr. Talwar, on Faisalabad by Mr. Iqbal, on Surabaya by Dr. Haryono, and on Khon Kaen by Dr. Krasae. These will be completed by the end of April in time for the following newsletter.

**Database Development**

It was recommended that the baseline study data be uploaded onto the AUICK database. Basic data sets on the nine countries have been prepared in Excel format by Dr. Ness. The Secretariat will consult with the UNFPA Country Support Team in Bangkok and other qualified institutions or individuals for technical advice about the database structure.

**Other Issues / Items**

Dr. Giridhar remarked that he was impressed with the IAC mechanism and would recommend to UNFPA Headquarters that all UNFPA regional projects should be overseen by an IAC body for guidance and technical assistance.

The Secretariat reported that Dr. Jung Duk Lim, professor of Pusan University, completed his term as an IAC member, and all members honored his achievements in his duration. The Secretariat also informed IAC that the last IAC nominee from China would not be able to join the Committee and therefore they are looking for an appropriate candidate and asked IAC for suggestions. AUICK will seek the advice of the UNFPA China office.

Upon learning of the retirement of Mr. Masayuki Ishitsuho at the end of March 2005, the IAC acknowledged with great appreciation his valuable contribution to the work of AUICK over the last two years and wished him all the best. The IAC also thanked Mr. Toshiaki Baba, Deputy Executive Director of AUICK, who also left in March, for his dedicated work for AUICK over the last 4 years. He was succeeded by Mr. Nobuyuki Morimoto.

**Closing**

Mr. Sasayama, Chairman of AUICK, formally closed the meeting by expressing his appreciation on behalf of AUICK to the IAC members, in particular to Dr. Ness and Dr. Kurada, for their valuable advice and continued support to AUICK. He also thanked Dr. Giridhar for attending the meeting as the UNFPA representative and for his useful technical input.
III. Participants

1. IAC Members

Dr. Prem P. Talwar
Adjunct Professor, School of Public Health, University of North Carolina (India)

Dr. Harono Soyon
Former Coordinating Minister for Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation (Indonesia)

Dr. Toshio Kuroda
Director Emeritus, Population Research Institute, Nihon University, and President of JOICFP (Japan)

Dr. Karem Iqbal
Member, Sindh Local Govt. Commission (Pakistan)

Dr. Krasae Chanawongse
Advisor to the Prime Minister (Thailand)

Dr. Gayl D. Ness
Professor Emeritus, University of Michigan (USA)

2. Observer

Dr. Girindhar Garimella
Director of UNFPA CST in Bangkok, and UNFPA Representative in Thailand, representing Mr. Kunio Waki, Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA

3. AUICK Secretariat

Mr. Kazutoshi Sasayama, Chairman
Dr. Hirofumi Ando, President
Mr. Masayuki Ishitubo, Executive Director
Mr. Toshiaki Baba, Deputy Executive Director
Mr. Nobuyuki Morimoto, Director

AUICK welcomes your contribution

Sharing information is a crucial part of AUICK's activities. This newsletter is intended to be a venue for the exchange of information on urban and population problems in Asian cities. Your contribution to the newsletter is very important. Based on our regulations, payment will be made for published works. Please send your opinions, articles, information, papers, and pictures to:

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