Workshop on Future of Cities
July 19th, 2013

Summing up
Complexity of Challenges

- Recognise that
  - Urbanization is the key to economic growth
  - Urban development has to be in consonance with regional decentralised development
  - Heritage and human aspirations and ecology have to be taken into account in development
  - Economy, ecology, social patterns, formal informal transactions creates contests and opposing impulses and problematise planning
In Search of Solutions

Key Lesson:

• Planning is important for both greenfield and brown-field cities, for inclusive and progressive cities.
• Convergence of initiatives, and perspectives that bring together concerns of disparate communities, and fragile biotic resource base to evolve sustainable habitat frameworks and humane empathic processes of development planning.
• Evolving from sector strategy compartmentalisation and binaries like people Vs technology towards a Design thinking for cities.
Opportunities, present and ahead

• Considerable effort in terms of research in urban sciences and engineering, Urban management, and habitat studies in Knowledge institutions: IITs, IIMs, SPAS, TISS, NID (C-USE, IITB; C-UDD, IITR; C-SD, IITH; COHS, TISS)
• Encouraging innovations by: low cost housing IITM, Solar Decathelon, IITB
• Need for institutional networks to evolve multi-disciplinary strategies
• Need to work closely with major programmes that seek to leverage urban transformation- JNNURM, DMRC, to take research challenges/curriculum design from live contexts and vice versa to transfer technology for informed decisions
• Marry Technology with citizen centric, participatory and democratic processes to evolve sustainable designs
Key Areas

• Research intensively on physical and social issues in an integrated (user centric) perspective.
  o Smart materials
  o Energy
  o Water
  o Affordable housing
  o Transportations
  o Waste management
  o Sensors
  o Public Health
  o Vulnerability/disaster proneness
  o Densification
  o Needs of the Blurred borders of rural/urban: small/middle towns.

• Big data and sensor data fusion is important for smart cities
Quick Next steps

• Refine this dialogue to make it more precise through more focused interactions: with JNNURM and DMIC
• Capacity development:
  • Short term executive programmes - land, housing sustainable architecture, multiple knowledge resources
  • Compendium of appropriate technologies
  • Skilling
  • Projectisation, data analysis.
  • Integrated, multi-disciplinary planning.
  • Decentralised Planning
• Joint research projects with multi-disciplinarity of approach addressing live problems. Look locally, enable National agendas.
• Evaluations and case studies and policy for a critical knowledge base to inform policy
• Cell in MHRD to coordinate efforts; support for collaborative research projects.
And steps that can follow

- More interdisciplinary centres for urban planning in IITs/IIMs/SPAs
- Credit Transfers among different institutions for more integrated cognition
- Habitat resource centre
- Urban observatory
- South south collaboration—where poverty and human development challenges are major issues