

**Havana 2005- the sustainable Cities programme and the localizing
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Mainstreaming EPM at the National Level

**Presented by
Leo Fonseka
MaRGG, Sri Lanka**

Introduction

- Many good local experiences never see the portals of national planning.
- They often sprout, bloom and wither at the local level. Never get an opportunity to sharpen/enrich national frameworks.
- Effective/sustainable institutional mechanisms that document such experience for national mainstreaming are rare.

Importance of Mainstreaming

- Field lessons are results of costly experimentations. It is economically imprudent and politically incorrect not to mainstream them nationally.
- Only by mainstreaming that systemic environment planning and management could be:
 - ELEVATED to the national agenda & debate and,
 - AUTOMATED into national laws and support mechanisms.
- Mainstreaming is not easy, but not difficult either.

SCP/LA21 Experience

- About 100 cities in 32 countries presently use EPM.
Eg. Sri Lanka (18), Tanzania (13), Senegal (7),
Morocco (6)
- Impact is fairly impressive. in some countries. It has influenced national strategies
- Lessons have been hand-crafted, course-corrected and field-proven.

Two Distinct Lessons to Mainstream

1. Participatory Institutional Mechanisms & Partnership Building

City Profiling,
City Consultations,
Working Groups,
Participatory Budgeting
EMIS Systems
Partnerships

2. Improved Options for Service Delivery

Solid Waste Management
Environmental Health
Non-Revenue Water Supply
Air Quality Management

All these permit, promote and support intensive stakeholder participation and robust public private partnerships

EPM approach positively impacts on:

**Urban Planning,
Environmental Management,
Poverty Reduction**

*Mainstreaming EPM in national
frameworks creates the necessary:*

- **Political will,**
- **Administrative Commitment,**
- **Treasury Support**

Mainstreaming EPM in National Policies & Strategies

- Poverty Reduction is the main MDG instrument but, seldom includes urban & environment dimensions.
- The symbiosis not adequately understood & addressed.
- Strategies must engage stakeholder participation.
- EPM provides ample space for this.

Examples

- Urban Policy revised using Dar es Salam SCP lessons (Tanzania)
- SCP/LA21 in 3 cities influenced Urban Sector Policy (Sri Lanka)
- EPM lessons used to implement National LG Code (Philippines)
- Involvement of LAs in the Poverty Committee (Senegal)
- Cabinet assigns lead role to Local Government Ministry to steer Good Governance in local authorities. (Sri Lanka)

Mainstreaming EPM in National Legislation

- Policies are not enough; Laws provide the anvil for nation-wide application.

Examples

- Arequipa City experiment in pollution testing of automobiles is now endorsed as a national law (Peru)
- City AQM has become national strategy now. (Sri Lanka)
- Supreme Court enjoined 11 Cities to submit SWM Plans (Sri Lanka)
- SCP influences implementation of SWM Rules 2000 (India)
- Town Planning Laws incorporate City Consultation as a tool (Tanzania)

Mainstreaming EPM in National Guidelines and Tools

- Include EPM lessons in development guidelines
- Stress the need to customize and use the EPM toolkits
- Insist on early institutionalization of EPM mechanisms for stakeholder participation and public-private partnerships.

Examples

- LA 21 lessons improved urban planning practices (Cuba)
- EPM integrated into Land Use Plan Preparation (The Philippines)
- EPM mainstreamed at Districts for Community Development (China)

Mainstreaming EPM in National Capacity Building Mechanisms

- EPM must be integrated into human resource capacity building agenda.
- Local government practitioners, elected officials and civil society partners need training in EPM.
- EPM anchor-institutions are needed at National level to steer capacity building. Universities/Academics must be engaged to influence curricula.
- Formulate National Capacity Development Strategies.

Examples

- INAU in Morocco, IAGU in Senegal, AIILSG in India, UCLAS in Tanzania, SLILG and CURP in Sri Lanka
- The Copper Belt University in Zambia, ACCA21 and Beijing University in China, AIM & UP in the Philippines.
- SCP produced National Strategy on Municipal Capacity Building in Sri Lanka

Mainstreaming EPM in Academic Curricula

- Tertiary education is often encumbered by outdated master planning approaches. SCP/LA21 often had to 'de-school' the learning.
- the documented local lessons & national EPM policy must be effectively navigated into academic curricula.
- The new millennium and its challenges call for a new breed of urban professionals- planners & managers.
- They must be pro-poor, people-friendly, field-oriented environmentalists. In short, EPM Practitioners.

Examples:

- CURP includes EPM in Town Planning Exams. (Sri Lanka)

Mainstreaming EPM in National Technical Support Mechanisms

- LAs & Training Agencies need technical support to implement EPM.
- The state must own up & strengthen these Support mechanisms.
- Their early institutionalization is vital for sustainability & for preparing the Support Teams to proactively meet local needs.

Examples

- UASU National Support Team (Tanzania)
- Support Unit at Directorate of Physical planning (Morocco)
- SWM Cell in AIILSG (India)
- Urban Governance Unit in Ministry of Urban Development (Sri Lanka)

Mainstreaming EPM in National Financial Support Mechanisms

- Policies, laws, training and technical support are vital ingredients for national level mainstreaming.
- Yet, they are sterile without the guarantee of financial and other resources.
- Some governments are already providing counterpart funding, though small.
- It is our duty – yours and mine – to influence the national budget to provide sufficient finances to support local authorities to effectively implement the EPM policy.
- Enlightened leaders do not require reminders or political pressure to do this.

Conclusions

- The responsibility of EPM mainstreaming lies with the related ministries such as Environment, Local Government and Urban Development.
- But, the question is, as leaders of our nations, how many of us here know that there are many splendid EPM lessons that must go into our national policies, strategies, laws & budgets?

Therefore, it is time to ask from ourselves a few pertinent questions and answer them honestly.

The Question

- **Being a national leader, to what extent have you known what EPM has been doing in your country to improve urban environment planning and management?**
- **Are you satisfied that EPM is working well in your country? If not, what corrective actions would you take to improve your involvement and knowledge?**

One More Question

If you are already aware of what is happening,

- **Are you convinced that EPM has got many lessons that can improve you country's national policy and legal framework?**
- **If convinced, what will you do to mainstream the EPM approach into your national policies, legislations and capacity building agenda?**

The Final Question

UPON YOUR RETURN

- How much time and effort would you personally commit for mainstreaming?
- Will you get your team to convert this commitment into a Strategic Plan to mainstream EPM nationally?

THANK YOU