

Department of Planning
School of Architecture and Planning, Anna University, Chennai. 25
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Report of the World Habitat Day 2004 Celebration held on 4th Oct. 2004 (2.00pm to 4.00 pm) at the Department of Planning, School of Architecture and Planning (SAP), Anna University, Chennai.

By Dr. Abdul Razak Mohamed
Professor of Town Planning, SAP &
The Convenor of the WHD Celebration

The World Habitat Day celebration was attended by 60 participants consists of Masters of Planning students of SAP, officials from the Department of Town and Country Planning, Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, Chennai, teachers of architecture and planning from the city colleges, media personals and the public. The programme started with the welcome speech delivered by **Prof. Swaminathan, Dean, SAP** and extends his warm welcome to the key speakers, and others. In his welcome address he highlighted the importance of the educational institutions such as engineering colleges and architecture and planning school should play a catalyst role in transferring the technology in building rural development in India. Followed by **Dr. M. Abdul Razak, professor of town planning, SAP** read the salient features of the WHD address by the UN Secretary General, and the Executive Director. He added that there are two patterns of urbanisation in India such as metropolis oriented urbanisation and non metropolis oriented urbanisation become important to consider the rural development in India. The spatial distribution of cities and villages in terms of rural and urban link and divide is so important to understand the role of cities in rural development because the social dynamics and development needs vary as per the villages and its hinterlands. **Prof. S. Ravi, Head, Department of Planning, SAP** while introduce the theme he stressed the importance of cities as the knowledge hubs could change the village and its economy. This could be achieved through strengthening the knowledge base in the cities particularly the management capabilities of educational institutions.



The key speaker of the celebration **Dr. S. Balaji, Director, Environment, Government of Tamil Nadu** spoke about the state of urbanisation in India that it is one of the necessary evil and highlight the role of architects and town planners in preserving the habitat. He also suggested to strengthen the interaction between villages and cities through helping each other by sending compost to village form lands while the city receive food grains and the village supply 10 % of water used for agriculture to the city might save water problems. **Dr. K.R. Thooyavan, Dean, Department of Architecture, Hindustan College, Chennai** expressed that villages should implement low cost sanitation since the land availability and cheap labour to improve the quality of life of the people in rural areas. **Dr. B. Anand, Commissioner, Department of Town and Country Planning, Government of Tamil Nadu** said that there is an urgent need for the preparation of regional plans taking into account of integrating the urban and rural areas. He also suggest to have more interactions to be developed between the local governments and the professional at the regional and city level to prepare development plans in order to achieve a balanced development between rural and urban areas in India. The WHB celebrations ended with Prof. S. Ravi proposed a vote of thanks to all the key speakers, convenor, town planning staff's from the city offices, students and other participants.

Picture: Speaker: Dr. B. Anand, In the Dias: (Left to Right) Dr. M. Abdul Razak, Dr. S. Balaji, Prof. P. Swaminathan, Dr. K.R. Tooyavan, and Prof. S. Ravi.