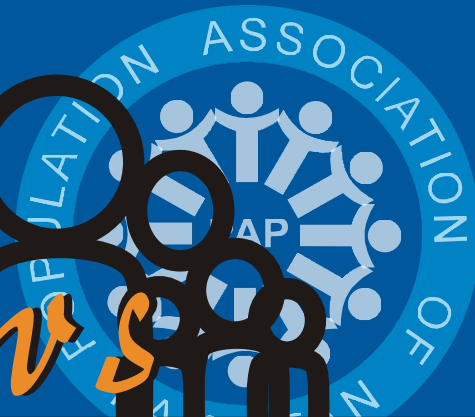


POPULATION

windows



WINTER 2004
Volume 5, Issue 4

A quarterly newsletter on population

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5th Annual Research Conference

Sharing Population and Development Research Across South and West Asia

The fifth Annual Population Research Conference "Sharing Population and Development Research across South and West Asia" was jointly organized by the Population Association of Pakistan and Department of Sociology, University of Karachi, from 14 -16 December 2004 in Karachi.

In his inaugural address, the Federal Minister for Population Welfare, Chaudhry Shahbaz Hussain, emphasized the need for revising the population control policies in the development countries in the context of major demographic transitions. Population is recognized as a major crosscutting issue in the recently prepared Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

The Vice Chancellor of the Karachi University, Prof. Dr. Pirzada Qasim, in his welcome address said that the issue of population growth had a comparatively lower priority in the past and it was only recently that it had been take up as a serious social problem. "Persistent poverty, low standards of human welfare, unplanned urbanization, prevalent diseases and increase in crime had added to the gravity of population and development issues". Sindh Minister for Women's Development, Dr. Saeeda Malik, said that goals of population and family control programme could not be achieved till education and awareness were disseminated among women of the rural communities.

The British Deputy High Commissioner,



Hamish Daniel said that the UK government had pledged substantial support to Pakistan at both, Federal and Provincial levels, to implement the family planning strategies.

President of PAP, Dr. Zeba A. Sathar, said the Population Association of Pakistan had been founded in 2000 and since then it has been efficiently fighting the daunting challenge of population control through practical strategies.

In his keynote address, Dr. Peter Xenos, senior fellow, Population and Health studies, University of Hawaii, USA, discussed radical transition in the characteristics of family and

Sharing Responsibility for Environment Protection

by Ali Tauqeer Sheikh

National Program Director/Chief Executive Officer of Leadership Environment and Development (LEAD) Pakistan.



Pakistan's population is 145.5 million with a growth rate of 2.5%; and fertility rate of 4.3%. Each year, 3.02 million people add to Pakistan's population. Being the sixth most populated country in the world whose population will be doubled in the next 33 years, this grave situation presents many challenges that need immediate attention. Pakistan's environment is deteriorating at an alarming rate due to its rapidly increasing population—the 'land of five rivers' has failed to provide safe drinking water to 70% of its population. A huge majority of the population does not have access to sanitation, health and education. Only 40% of its population has access to sewerage facilities.

For 145.5 million people, the forest cover is less than 4%—the deforestation is occurring at the rate of 2.5%. Fifty percent of Pakistan's population is forced to live in one-room houses. Pakistan is an agricultural country but per capita arable land is shrinking due to higher pressure on land. In 1951-52, per capita agricultural holding was 1.1 acres due to higher pressure on land has been reduced to 0.5 acres in 1977. After spending 85% of its income on the borders' protection, Pakistan is left with only 15% of its budget to be spent on protecting the environment and addressing various social needs of its population. Pakistan also receives financial support from the donors, however, the 15% of its own budget and funds from donors' are not effectively managed because of government's limited capacity to understand and address the environment challenges.

One of the option to address the issue of environ is to develop public private partnership. PPP has strong existence in Pakistan in the form of philanthropy. However, there is a strong need to institutionalize the PPP because the business industry is emerging as the biggest employer all over the world. In certain cases, the government is also the biggest client of the corporate companies. Moreover, the increasing competition has forced the companies to formulate a CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) policy and invest in various social services projects. The newly launched initiative of the United Nations—Global Compact—has further increased this competition driving companies to outperform each other in the social investment.

Government's inability to effectively provide its citizens a number of public services has strengthened the concept of privatization. Education, health services and now the law and order (to some extent) has also gone into the private sector's hands—we are hiring private guards for our protection! The private sector has taken a lot of load off the government's shoulder in the public services. In other words, the private sector has become a 'quasi-government.' This is a great change!

This change demands new actions—the corporate sector should be providing quality public services to its consumers on minimum profits; it should be conducting its business without harming the environment or posing any threat to the public life. The corporate giving should really make a difference—providing a small water scheme to the community does not compensate the damage caused by the unlimited emission of carbon dioxide. The government should facilitate the corporate sector in the delivery of the services. For example, if a company intends to set up a school, the government should be able to provide it with land and other services on a priority basis. At the same time, the ownership of the school should lie with the communities. In a nutshell, development is everyone's responsibility and it could be best done through the mutual collaboration of the government, corporate sector and civil society.

The good thing is, the civil society institutions and the corporate companies are becoming aware of their social responsibilities. They are forging partnerships to alleviate poverty, improve the quality of education, provide employment opportunities, protect environment, etc. Companies are formulating their corporate governance policies and voluntarily reporting on non-financial performances. However, there is a strong need for a platform where the government, corporate companies and the members of the civil society could join hands and work as a team for good governance. There is a need to build the capacity of the corporate sector about the development issues. Some big multinationals have high budgets dedicated for CSR but they don't know how to utilize that money effectively to address the basic needs of the communities just having money in the pocket or spending is not enough. The real challenge is to create an enabling environment for the government, corporate sector and the civil society to work together an extensive brainstorming on the issue of establishing the standards of developing partnership to address the environment issues.

Election 2004: Results Announcement Executive Council 2005-2006

According to the provision in the Constitution of the Population Association of Pakistan (PAP) held its third election on 15th December 2004, during fifth annual research conference 2004: Sharing Population & Development Research across South & West Asia, 14 – 16 December 2004 held at Department of Sociology, University of Karachi. Dr. Zeba A. Sathar congratulated the new Executive Council in PAP's General Body Meeting on 15th December, while formal announcement of Election 2004 result is as below:

QUOTE:
20 December 2004

Dear PAP Members,
Greetings from the Population Association of Pakistan

It is with the greatest pleasure that I would like to announce the results of 2004 Elections of the Population Association of Pakistan.

Office Bearers:

President:	Dr. Mehtab S. Karim (Elected unopposed)
Vice-President:	Dr. Naushin Mahmood (Elected unopposed)
Secretary General:	Dr. Ali M. Mir (Elected unopposed)
Joint Secretary:	Dr. Rashida Panezai (Elected unopposed)
Treasurer	Mr. Mehboob Sultan

Members Executive Council:

Mrs. Seemin Ashfaq	Dr. Nabila Ali
Dr. Arshad Mahmood	Dr. Shabina Raza
Mrs. Imtiaz T. Kamal	Mr. M. Aslam Chaudhry

I wish the new President, Dr. Mehtab S. Karim, this excellent new team and the Population Association of Pakistan (PAP) very best of luck for the term 2005-2006.

Sincerely
Dr. Zeba A. Sathar
President – PAP
Chairperson – PAP Election 2004

UNQUOTE:
Congratulations entire Executive Council 2005-06.

READER'S

Forum

Readers are requested to send their comments and queries to editorial committee for inclusion in future issues through letter or Email.

We are grateful to Dr. Tauseef Ahmed for his query about current social sector surveys and would like to inform him that MICS and RSP are currently underway & we hope to get the information on (CWIQ) as soon as it is available.

Thanks
Managing Editor

Population and the Environment & all that Jazz

Usman Iftikhar

Environmental Economist, Pakistan Country Office, World Conservation Union - IUCN



Over the last three decades, one notion has shaped much of our modern social thought: that the human species is reproducing itself uncontrollably, and ominously. The Population Bomb a best-

selling book in 1968 by Paul Ehrlich warned that "the cancer of population growth must be cut out" or "we will breed ourselves into oblivion." A study by the Club of Rome described how rapacious humans would soon "run out of natural resources." The argument was simply that more people cause more pollution, more people use more resources and more affluent people do more of both.

The genesis of the population growth thesis detrimental to the environment can be traced to the ideas of the classical economist Malthus. Malthus in late 1700s postulated that population growth will rise exponentially whereas food production will tend to rise in a linear fashion. The net result of this is that population growth would eventually outstrip any possible rise in food production, which means impoverishment, famines and calamity for humans. The emphatic policy message emanating from this argument is simply to invest in controlling population growth through family planning.

Recent research, at the global scale has however shown that the Malthusian analysis of reduced food availability cannot be concluded from data, as in the areas where the majority of people live still experience rising per capita food production. Thus there must be more to the picture than meets the eye. Instead as a broad generalisation, we are

witnessing systematically higher levels of consumption in developed countries and arguably at the expense of increasing number of people in developing countries living in poverty: the so-called one dollar a day measure. Rather to the environment the nexus between population and poverty may hold more relevance. However, this would have less to do with simple demographics than with the distribution of consumption and wealth. The Nobel Laureate Economist Amartya Sen has been instrumental in highlighting that the issue is about access to food or more formally the issue of entitlement failure. Social scientists have long recognised that the arguments concerning famines as an outcome of population growth are spurious.

The complexity and contentiousness of the nexus between population and environment is now increasingly recognised. Mink (1993) for example, argues that because of the poor living environment - and hence - lower productivity as well as the lack of social safety nets provides the poor the incentives to raise large families. This, he argues, would contribute to pauperism in an adverse, dynamic pattern. However others, while recognising that growing population does exert pressure on productive lands and resources, argue that it is not necessarily the case that population causes the damage. The complex of locally-specific, social, economic, environmental and governance circumstances in which increasing population takes place, which in turn can be strongly influenced by external policy and institutional factors, are usually the driving forces behind poverty-environment interactions (DfID, et al, 2002). In fact, there is much evidence highlighting, for example, that increasing population growth has led to the rehabilitation and profitability of degraded, unproductive lands (Tiffen et al., 1994). Moreover, research in the middle hills of Nepal has shown that farmers adapt organisational and land management practices to reduce the impact

of population growth and environmental change, such as by using local landslides to increase soil fertility (Ives and Messerli, 1989).

So instead of putting the blame solely on population growth, the analysis has now turned to examining the principal causes of environmental degradation. While there is growing recognition of the importance of the environment in terms of the multitude of goods and services it provides: namely raw materials, food production, energy, recipient and partial recycler of waste products from the economy and an important source of recreation, beauty, spiritual values, and other amenities. The distressing reality is that the multifarious values of the environment are either not recognised or grossly undervalued, and this has to do with such values not being revealed in markets, policies and institutions. And this in turn leads to less than optimal production, and more than optimal consumption, and hence to overexploitation and destruction. Population growth in the face of these unfavourable conditions magnifies the environmental impacts.

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Assessing Impact (Handbook of EIA and SEA Follow-up)

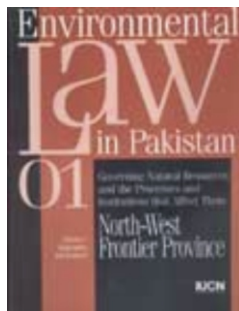
Gregory C. Shaffer

'This book will prove to be an invaluable reference and guide for EIA practitioners in industry, consultancies and regulatory agencies, as well as in the education and training sector' Paula Caldwell, Director General, Environmental Protection Service, Environment Canada
 Written and edited by an authoritative team of internationally known experts in environmental impact assessment (EIA), this is the first book to present in a coherent manner the theory and practice of EIA and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) follow-up. *'This book will prove to be an invaluable reference and guide for EIA practitioners in industry, consultancies and regulatory agencies, as well as in the education and training sector'* Paula Caldwell, Director General, Environmental Protection Service, Environment Canada
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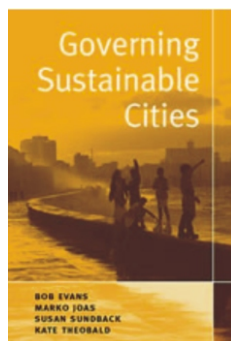
Environmental Law in Pakistan

May 21, 2004: In 1999, IUCN Pakistan's Law Programme ascertained that there existed no comprehensive reference on environmental law in Pakistan. Owing to the lack of a collective resource, a perception pervaded that there were only few national and provincial laws pertaining to environmental protection and conservation. Consultations with lawyers and stakeholders led to the decision to compile information on all natural resource management laws of Pakistan and the processes that affect them as well as to undertake a review of these laws. Responding to these needs, IUCN Pakistan has produced two volumes compiling all environmental laws and regulations of North-West Frontier Province, and their succinct review. A pioneering initiative, this resource is one of six similar provincial efforts initiated by IUCN in the country. The publication, the first of its kind for IUCN in Asia, was formally launched by the Chief Justice of the Peshawar High Court earlier last week.



Governing Sustainable Cities

Urban governance and sustainability are rapidly becoming key issues around the world. Currently three billion people – half the population of the planet – live in cities, and by 2050 a full two-thirds of the world's population will be housed in ever larger and increasingly densely populated urban areas. The economic, social and environmental challenges posed by urbanization on such a large scale and at such a rapid pace are staggering for local, regional and national governments working towards sustainability.



5th Annual Research Conference..... Continued from page 1

youths due to rapid population growth in South-Western Asian Regional. Dr. Qadeer Ahsan representing USAID said that his agency had substantially funded the improvement of health facilities in Pakistan.



Dr. Sharon Epstein from the USA said that proper cataloging and preservation of research documents on the population welfare for the Southwestern Asian region should be carried out on an institutionalized basis.

The Secretary of Ministry of Population Welfare, Mr. Shezad Shaikh, said that under the present regional circumstances they could not afford to lose precious time between conceiving of family control strategies by academicians and their implementation by the government agencies.



Forty (40) Oral Presentations and Ten (10) Poster presentations on wide ranging population and development issues by delegates from Australia, Bangladesh, Iran, India, Nepal and Pakistan, provided an opportunity for the 440 participants of the conference to share their experiences and learnings from South and West Asia region. The wide-ranging topics at the conference included: mortality and health transition, population and poverty, maternal health, migration and urbanization, fertility and family planning, RTIs and HIV/AIDs, population aging, reproductive health, population and development, and, youth and adolescents.

A suggestion was made to establish a regional forum on population for the policy makers and the research. This would encourage exchange of information and learnings at the regional level.

The Federal Minister for the Population Welfare suggested to have wider perspective to population and suggested it to change it to population development rather than just calling it population. In the time to come, the people in this field will need to review, discuss and adopt how they would like to address this.

PAKISTAN: Punjab aims to get tough on air pollution

Pakistan's Punjab province - the nation's most populous - has announced measures to tackle air pollution, but some activists doubt they will have any impact, citing the tardy progress of previous steps to improve the environment. Already among the highest in the world, air pollution levels in Pakistan's largest cities, many of which are in Punjab, continue to climb, raising serious health concerns.

The Economic Survey of Pakistan 2004 pinpoints vehicle and industrial emissions as the main air pollutant. "The average compounded growth of vehicles in Pakistan is about 12 percent a year, and over the last two decades the total number of motor vehicles on the road has jumped from 0.8 million to almost 5 million," the annual report said.

It explained that motorcycles and rickshaws, due to their two-stroke engines, are the most inefficient in burning fuel and contribute most to emissions. Rickshaws have more than doubled in number, while motorcycles and scooters have increased seven-fold over the past 20 years.

The Punjab government says two-stroke vehicles will be illegal in the province after 31 December this year. The Punjab environment secretary, Riaz Bashir, told IRIN that the use of vehicles with two-stroke engines had been banned in many countries around the world. "Vehicle-based environmental pollution has already reached alarming levels and further delay in bringing it under control could have disastrous effects," he warned.

According to a World Bank report, air pollution causes 168,000 premature deaths annually in Pakistan. "Urban air pollution causes average annual damages in the range of US \$369 million to the Pakistani exchequer," it said.

A study carried out by the Ministry of Environment says about 16.28 million people (40 percent of the total urban population) of Pakistan are at a health risk due to air pollution because the province does not comply with World Health Organization (WHO) ambient air quality standards.

The Environment Protection Department (EPD) is trying to soften the blow by the provision of loans to owners of two-stroke vehicles to replace their engines with natural gas burning units after the ban. It says the ban will help cut pollution in big cities such as Lahore, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi and Multan. Such a ban exists in the federal capital, Islamabad, and has gone some way to improving air quality there.

But previous EPD campaigns have achieved little, activists say. In 1998, the EPD drive against vehicles emitting smoke and creating noise only succeeded in imposing fines on the owners of 150,000 two-stroke vehicles and impounding 400 by the time it ended in 2001. In last year's campaign against smoke-emitting vehicles, the environment department's mobile squads

fined more than 8,000 private and 500 government vehicles in the cities of Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Multan and Rawalpindi.

Head of the mobile squads, Nasimur Rahman, told IRIN they launched the campaign on the directions of the Supreme Court, which acted in May last year to try to reduce environmental degradation in Pakistan, especially in the Punjab.

But the EPD lacks resources, including trained staff and scientific instruments to measure emission levels. According to a survey recently conducted by the department, more than 70 percent of the public and private vehicles in Lahore are emitting excessive smoke and noise.

Punjab Transport Minister Rana Shamshad Ahmad Khan told the Punjab Assembly that the government intended to buy new equipment to test vehicles.

But some people laugh the whole campaign off. "The government has not succeeded in even enforcing its ban on smoking in public offices and places," Irshad Hussain, a broadcaster and environmental activist, told IRIN. "The major problem is lack of will," he said.

The problem appears to run even deeper. There is no viable plan for the phasing out of about 200,000 vehicles (according to EPD figures) running on two-stroke engines in the province. The minister says the two-stroke-engine vehicles will be sent to smaller cities.

Worst hit will be drivers of ubiquitous three-wheeler scooters or auto-rickshaws which will be made obsolete by the ban.

"It is easy to order a ban but the government should have arranged loans for us so that we can buy new vehicles. After all we were providing a service to the public," Akram, an auto rickshaw driver, told IRIN. He has been driving a rickety, smoky vehicle for five years. A new vehicle would cost nearly US \$2,500 dollars, a sum he could never afford.

Hiring a vehicle will cost him two dollars a day and there are days when he can barely scrape up three dollars. He fears that owners of three-wheelers which comply with the new regulations will raise the daily rent.

Long-suffering commuters will also have to pay more. "The drivers who buy new four-stroke rickshaws will charge more," Shazia Ali told IRIN. She commutes to and from her office by rickshaw. "Travelling by rickshaw was already too costly," she said.

"The trouble is they are looking for quick fix solutions when what is needed is a comprehensive technology plan including traffic management and pollution control," Irshad Hussain said.

Governments of The United States and Norway Join "the Seed Initiative"

The governments of the United States of America and Norway have joined the Supporting Entrepreneurs for Environment and Development (Seed) Initiative.

The Seed Initiative, led by IUCN-The World Conservation Union, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with support from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, encourages community level partnership action in support of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and outcomes from the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Seed has three objectives.

The first is to recognize innovative nascent partnerships that promise to implement these international goals through a biennial award programme. The second is to provide individually-targeted support services to selected Seed honorees, helping them to establish their new partnerships and to showcase emerging partnerships on the web (www.seedinit.org). The third is to capture lessons-learned and create best practice resources. These resources will include a wide variety of support information for other entrepreneurs active in development partnerships.

Directory of Institutions Active In Environmental Law

Knowing who to contact and where to find information on environmental law is critical for establishing and maintaining knowledge networks and for building capacity.

In order to help meet this need, IUCN's Environmental Law Centre (ELC) has cooperated with the International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL), an IUCN Member, to compile an international directory of institutions active in environmental law. This Directory is now available on the IUCN Environmental Law Programme website, and will be updated and maintained by the IUCN ELC.

WCPA and Partners Announce Two New Awards for Young Conservationists

The IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) announces two new awards to young people working in protected area and biodiversity related conservation.

The first, an annual award for young conservation leaders, will be offered jointly by WCPA and the International Rangers Federation (IRF). The second award is made available through WCPA and the Consortium for International Protected Area Management (CIPAM) and will give two training scholarships to young professionals in protected areas each year.

Deaths by water and environmental degradation

J. Sri Raman

Chennai, India - Kannan, 14, went out that Sunday morning to the Marina Beach, the pride of this city, its little piece of paradise. He carried his cricket bat, with a sticker of Sachin Tendulkar. His frail, little body was found hours later on the once inviting sands. Search was still on for the bodies of the other members of his team and their opponents who were to play a weekend match on a field with a backdrop of waves. The bodies of many fishermen, who had gone into the sea for their morning catch, have not been found. Officials put the number of missing fishermen at no less than 5,000.

The best-known public hospital in this capital of the south Indian State of Tamilnadu, one of the worst-hit areas in the widespread tragedy of December 26, has lined up scores of salt-smeared bodies for possible identification by their bereaved kin. Many are still lying unclaimed - an indication that killer waves may have devoured whole families on the fringe of the city and survival.

People, especially the poor, are prepared for the worst - but the worst they can imagine. Down here, they were not prepared for this particular disaster, wrought by quake-generated waves (tsunamis, their Japanese name a household word here already) rising to a tidal height of 15 to 40 feet before crashing to kill. They were not prepared, and not only because they had fished only in a gentle sea and played or walked only on soft sands.

True, the balmy Bay of Bengal had held no terrors for them before. There is a more basic reason, however, why the tremors and the resultant sea turbulence (claiming a toll of over 2,500 human lives) have taken Chennai and Tamilnadu totally unawares. The public here has been kept in the dark about a dire environmental threat that has been growing at a great pace over the past decade or so. This holds true also for the rest of coastal India - the States of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, and West Bengal.

In the wake of the tragedy, Tamilnadu is witnessing a series of helicopter surveys of the misery in cities, towns and marooned villages by ministers. The opposition and the ruling party are raking up disaster-related issues to fight over. Funds for relief operations can also become an issue between the State and federal governments in the coming days. Official statements and steps reveal no recognition of the role of environmental degradation in the making of the disaster.

The calamity highlights, the callous neglect of environment protection along the entire coastal belt of India, including Tamilnadu. A handful of environmental activists have been crying themselves hoarse over the issue, but the powers-that-be have preferred to dismiss them as cranks. At the core of the issue lies a corporate-political mesh of corruption that seeks to thrive on human misery and lives.

India, by law, has a coastal regulation zone (CRZ), where building activities are supposed to be strictly regulated. In Tamilnadu and elsewhere, as old lawyers would put it, the rules and regulations have been observed more in breach than in observance. The rapacious rich, callous corporates, and a state flush with the 'free market' spirit have indulged in impermissible real-estate activities in the allegedly protected zone.

A concrete chain of residential colonies, star hotels and entertainment spots has robbed the land of coastal protection from the once friendly sea, affecting mainly the poor who have paid with their lives for this crime against the coastline.

When the dead have been cremated or buried, it will be time to tell the people that environmentalism is not elitism, as self-serving seekers of political power have taught them. At stake in the protection of India's coastal environment are the lives of not merely Olive Ridley turtles but the millions to whom it is not a money-spinning means.

This is an eyewitness report of Sunday's tragedy by freelance journalist and regular *truthout* contributor J. Sri Raman who lives in a fishing village in Chennai, India. He is the author of "Flashpoint" (Common Courage Press, USA). <http://www.truthout.org>

Policy on rickshaws falls prey to apathy: Air, noise pollution

The NWFP government's policy to gradually phase out environmentally harmful auto-rickshaws driven with two-stroke engines has failed to achieve desired results because of official apathy. The policy remained to be implemented in totality even after two years of its formulation.

It had been put in place more than two years ago by the then government in the province with the prime objective of improving the state of environment in several parts of the province. Officials of the NWFP Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), when contacted, said that auto-rickshaws driven with two-stroke engines were a major source of air and noise



pollution particularly in urban centres of the province. "Toxic emissions produced by vehicles driven with two-stroke engines cause adverse effects on human lungs and brain," said an environmental expert.

The move, said the sources, on the part of the last provincial government had been necessitated to mitigate negative effects of the tri-wheelers on the environment, which, according to official environmental experts, had deteriorated to an alarming proportion in the urban centres of the province.

However, the policy, said officials of the agencies concerned and departments of the province, could not be implemented chiefly due to apathy on the part of official decision makers and because of lack of political will on the part of the sitting provincial government.

"The policy did not materialize, hence, objectives laid down under it could not be fulfilled," said an official of the EPA. The previous government, officials said, had underlined a two-pronged policy to put an end to the use of tri-wheelers driven by environmentally unfriendly two-stroke engines, which, environmental experts say, produce poisonous carbon monoxide gas because of burning of mobil oil as fuel with petrol.

The policy envisaged gradual replacement of tri-wheelers driven by two-stroke engines with auto-rickshaws involving four stroke engines, which are considered to be environmentally safe. Besides, it emphasized making the owners of auto-rickshaws involving two stroke engines to use compressed natural gas (CNG) as fuel, instead of petrol, by installing specially designed kits in their vehicles.

In addition to that the previous government had also banned the registration of tri-wheelers with two stroke engines in Peshawar and Swat - the two urban centres of the province involving the highest concentration of auto-rickshaws.

According to information, the government could not achieve the desired results even though some of its agencies made 'half-hearted' attempts to achieve some of the objectives of the previous government's policy on the subject.

The policy to encourage installation of CNG kits in tri-wheelers did not work as except for the 20 auto-rickshaws which were fitted with CNG kits under a project of the government, owners of rickshaws did not opt to use compressed natural gas as fuel.

Similarly, the ban on the registration of tri-wheelers with two stroke engines in Peshawar and Swat also did not help the government to get the desired results because of the mushroom growth of specially designed Ching Chee rickshaws driven by motorbikes with two stroke engines.

The First Asia/Pacific Women, Girls & HIV/AIDS Best Practices Conference

Federal Ministry of Health-Pakistan, National AIDS Control Program-Pakistan UNAIDS and AMAL Human Development Network organised the "First Asia/Pacific Women, Girls and HIV/AIDS Best Practices Conference" in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, November 29 to December 01, 2004.

The Conference is seen as the foremost HIV/AIDS conference focusing on girls and women affected by the epidemic. The conference brought together eminent regional speakers, leading researchers and clinicians, program managers and participants from across Asia/Pacific region and around the world.

The Conference is the first of a series of best practices conferences to be held in the region biannually. The major objectives of the Conference were to:

- Understand the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls in Asia and the Pacific region
- Determine the future impact of HIV/AIDS in the region
- Review strategies to reverse current trends in transmission of the HIV
- Highlight unattended areas of need
- Identify current and emerging issues of concern to policy makers, program managers and civil society. The Conference provided a great networking and learning platform for HIV/AIDS support groups, civil society organizations, researchers, diagnosticians in and out of the laboratory, politicians, health practitioners, program managers, funding agencies and most importantly for women, men and young people directly affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. It aims to create an environment for engagement and discussion of the public health policy response to HIV/AIDS.

The 7th Sustainable Development Conference, December 8-10, 2004

The 7th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC), organized by a Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), was held in Islamabad. A pledge was made to put people ahead in governance at all levels by addressing their rights to development and ensuring their access to resources and livelihoods. [Http://www.sdpi.org](http://www.sdpi.org)

South Asian Conference on Gender and Governance, December 16-18, 2004

Rozan in collaboration with SANGAT (South Asian Network for Gender Activists and Trainers) and Mubariza, the national network of gender trainers, organised a three-day South Asian conference on 'Gender and Governance' in Islamabad. The conference sought to provide a forum for an analysis of the present governance structures in the South Asian context, and the governance agendas of different actors from a feminist stance in order to transform the governance debate to a more gender sensitive one. The speakers include Naila Kabir, Shaheen Sardar Ali, Nigar Ahmed, Khawar Mumtaz, Farida Shaheed and a host of other scholars, practitioners and friends from around the region. Different panels will address governance within the context of the political process, devolution, access to justice, poverty and the role of civil society.

Working Women's Assembly, December 22nd, 2004

The Alliance Against Sexual Harassment (AASHA) organised a Working Women's Assembly in Islamabad. The event was an effort to fight against harassment at the workplace and to develop safe and healthy work environment for a socially and economically strong society.

Tsunami

When we chose the Environment and Population theme for the Pop Windows, we were unaware that world's most powerful earthquake in 40 years in the Indian Ocean off the west coast of Sumatra, will trigger tidal waves up to 20 feet high killing 170,000 and displacing 1,675,000. Many millions more are affected by the crisis in one way or another. According to UNICEF, some 1.5 million children have been affected by the disaster. Major relief efforts are underway to provide life-saving operations such as the provision of clean water, sanitation and food are underway as well as starting the child protection and registration, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. On behalf of the PAP Executive Council members, the editor would like to convey the deepest sorrow at the loss of millions of people who have been affected by tsunami, with the hope that proposed early warning system will ensure the protection from such disasters in the future and also that current international relief efforts will provide support to the survivors to get them back to life again.

Editorial Committee - Population Windows

National Environment Policy Approved

The National Environmental Council has approved the National Environment Policy with a view to improve the country's environment and effective cooperation among the government, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders.

The meeting of the National Environmental Council was held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and was attended by Chief Ministers of the provinces, Federal Minister for Environment Maj (retd) Tahir Iqbal, and other officials of Ministry of Environment.

The minister said main objectives of the policy are to secure clean and healthy environment for the people of the country, attain sustainable economic and social development with due regard to protecting the resource base and the environment.

According to the Minister for Environment, the main objectives of the policy are to secure clean and healthy environment for the people of the country, attain sustainable economic and social development with due regard to protecting the resource base and the environment.

The National Environment Policy would also ensure effective management of the country's environment through active participation of all the departments and individuals. The policy also includes guiding principles for sustainable development, equitable access to environmental resources, creation of demand for better environment, respect and care for the environment and integration of environment into planning and implementation of policies, programmes and projects to achieve the objectives of the policy. The policy would also ensure change in personal attitudes and behaviours, extensive participation of communities, stakeholders and the public, accountability and transparency. It will also ensure increased coordination and cooperation among the federal and provincial governments, NGOs, private sector and academia with increased regional and international cooperation.

The National Environment Policy has also identified key sectoral issues for intervention. Under this policy, the government would manage and use water resources efficiently and acceptable quality, besides protection of aqua-culture. The government would also develop legal and policy framework for promotion of safe drinking water in the country and establish a water quality monitoring and surveillance system. Water treatment plants would be installed as an integral component of all drinking water supply schemes.

A master plan will be developed under this policy for the conservation and sustainable utilisation of water resources besides improving management of minor irrigation schemes. The policy would also ensure the enactment of "Water Conservation Act" and relevant standards to foster water conservation through installation of water saving devices. The Ministry of Environment has proposed projects of Rs 25 billion for the next five years which would be implemented with the help of provinces.

World to face acute shortage of water and food in 2025' Business Recorder

Forty percent of the world population is facing shortage of water, which will take a serious turn with acute shortage of water and food in 2025, said Professor Dr Bashir Ahmad, Vice Chancellor University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF). He was addressing a function attended by Dr Schwartz, Chairman Department of Livestock Ecology, University of Humboldt Berlin (Germany) here on Monday.

He said that fresh water reserves were fast depleting due to over population and other environmental and ecological changes. "The gap between the demand and availability of water will soar to 50 percent in 2025," he added. "Being agrarian economy, 67 percent of population in Pakistan was dependent on agriculture," he said and added that access to fresh water was imperative to overcome the challenge of poverty.

Underlining the importance of water for crops and livestock, he said that 3,000-liter water was required to produce only one-kilogram rice. Similarly, 100,000-litre water was needed to produce only 1 kilogram of meat, he said and stressed the need to ensure the adequate supply of water to produce various crops and livestock for human consumption.

World Watch

World not on track to meet the Millennium Development Goals for sanitation: New figures from the UNICEF/WHO Joint Monitoring Programme show that the sanitation target of halving the number of unserved people worldwide by 2015 will not be met without a dramatic acceleration in the provision of services. The summary figures which represent a comprehensive analysis of 2002 data from countries around the world also indicate that the world is on track to meet the drinking water MDGs (but population growth may outstrip progress) and that there are very serious coverage disparities between urban and rural populations and between the rich and the poor.

The Nobel Peace Prize 2004: The Norwegian Nobel Committee

awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2004 to Wangari Maathai for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace. Wangari Maathai is the first woman from Africa to be honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize.

She is also the first African from the vast area between South Africa and Egypt to be awarded the prize. She represents an example and a source of inspiration for everyone in Africa fighting for sustainable development, democracy and peace. Maathai combines science, social commitment and active politics. More than simply protecting the existing environment, her strategy is to secure and strengthen the very basis for ecologically sustainable development. She founded the Green Belt Movement where, for nearly thirty years, she has mobilized poor women to plant 30 million trees. Her methods have been adopted by other countries

as well. Through education, family planning, nutrition and the fight against corruption, the Green Belt Movement has paved the way for development at grass-root level.

3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress was held in November 2004. The event attracted some 4,899 people from all walks of life and from across the globe, including almost 1,000 of the world's leading scientists, over 200 business representatives, more than 40 Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Environment, Agriculture, Tourism and Fisheries, as well as hundreds of environmental activists, community and religious leaders.

The Congress showed how reliable information and extensive know-how, a deep-rooted passion for life in all its forms, and powerful collaboration with all sectors of society can improve the wellbeing of six billion people and the 15,589

species identified in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Participants of the congress heard the world's latest scientific knowledge presented, saw landmark initiatives launched, took part in high-level debates, signed a number of agreements, and voted on over 100 resolutions on critical conservation issues, ranging from Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) to the conservation of our oceans. "The decisions taken in Bangkok have the power to affect every single one of us," said IUCN Director General, Achim Steiner. "They have demonstrated the role of conservation in peace building, poverty eradication, food and water security, health and spirituality, and economic development. The global environmental agenda in 2004 is more than just a manifesto; it is a concern of global relevance and collective responsibility."

WEBSITE WINDOW

Pakistan Environment Protection Agency
www.environment.gov.pk

Lead Pakistan
<http://www.lead.org.pk/>

LEAD's mission is to create, strengthen and support networks of people and institutions promoting change towards sustainable development – development that is economically sound, environmentally responsible and socially equitable.

Earthscan
www.earthscan.co.uk

Earthscan is the UK's leading publisher of books on environment and sustainable development. It aims to increase understanding of environmental issues and their implications at all levels, from the local to the global, and to influence opinion and policy in ways that promote sustainable forms of development.

World Wide Fund
www.worldwildlife.org

Known worldwide by its panda logo, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) leads international efforts to protect endangered species and their habitats.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
<http://www.fao.org/>

The FAO was founded in 1945 with a mandate to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to improve agricultural productivity, and to better the condition of rural populations.

G-DAE (Global Development & Environment Institute)
<http://ase.tufts.edu/gdae>

A Tufts University (US) research institute dedicated to promoting a new understanding of how societies can pursue their economic goals in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner.

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
<http://www.iied.org/index.html>

An independent non-profit research institute working in the field of sustainable development. We seek to promote policies and practices that deliver benefits to the poor and more equitable management of the environment.

OPPORTUNITIES

Conferences/Trainings

International Seminar on Vulnerable Populations:

Definitions, Categories and Empirical Analysis organized by the IUSSP Scientific Committee on Historical Demography and the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Social (EHESS) Paris, 15-16 July 2005

International Conference on Effective Land-Water Interface Management for Solving Agriculture-Fishery-Aquaculture Conflicts in Coastal Zones 1-3 March 2005, Bac Lieu, Vietnam

The Conference will focus on the inland coastal zones affected by salinity intrusion in parts of the year and comprehensively assess their sound management to address conflicts among resource uses for the benefit of the poor and for environment sustainability.

<http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/assessment/>

First ever workshop on Endoscopic

Ultrasound to be held at Health Asia 2005, in collaboration with the Pakistan Society of Gastroenterology and National University Hospital, Singapore.

Third South Asian Neurosurgical Congress on March 17-20, 2005 will also be organized in collaboration with Health Asia 2005, an International mega Health event of the region, to be held at Pearl Continental Hotel Karachi from March 19-20 2005.

Newly added workshops decided in collaboration with the Agha Khan University Hospital at Health Asia 2005. i) Clinical Quality in Hospitals ii) Nursing Services in Hospitals iii) Nursing Education

Conference Program:

1. Investment Opportunities & Export Potential in Health Sector
2. Medical Education
3. Health Governance, TQM & Standards
4. International Health Services
5. Medical Ethics
6. Telemedicine/e-Health
7. Complimentary Medicine
8. Rationalization of Therapy

The Conference Program is also available on web site www.health-asia.com