Sustainable Urban Transport Programme

**Background**

Of India's population, 28 percent currently resides in urban areas, which, over the next 3–4 decades is expected to rise exponentially to 60 percent. With rapid urbanization, considerable expansion of urban transport over the last ten years, has brought with it, significant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that threaten to negate efforts underway to curb emissions in India. In the same vein, while the National Urban Renewal Plan accords high priority to urban transport, the National Urban Transport Policy and the National Environment Policy of 2006 highlight the need to reduce urban transport emissions. The implementation of national policies to meet urban transport requirements while simultaneously building environmentally sustainable Indian cities has, however, frequently comes up against inadequate institutional and financing capacity.

**About the project**

The Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), Government of India, in partnership with UNDP, initiated the Sustainable Urban Transport Programme in 2009 to strengthen capacity of the MoUD and the Institute of Urban Transport to enable them to provide substantial support to local governments in implementing the National Urban Transport Policy 2006. Under the project, technical assistance was to be provided to the MoUD
to strengthen project management capabilities. About 1,000 professionals at national, state and local levels will be trained on integrated land use and transport planning, public transport, non-motorized transport, bus regulation and planning, preparation of comprehensive mobility plans, and coordinated planning and management of city transport. Furthermore, the project included the development and publication of manuals and toolkits to enhance the knowledge of transport planners and designers at state and municipal levels as also a knowledge management database at the Institute of Urban Transport, New Delhi.

**Developments so far**

- The project website www.sutpindia.com has been launched.
- Modules on training and skill development (PC2) are being developed. These focus on sensitization, institutional financing and cost benefit analysis, demand assessments, transport planning, integrated planning of infrastructure, public transport, environment and social impact, procurement and contracts, operations, traffic engineering and traffic management. Several models are being reviewed by experts.
- Preparation of manuals and toolkits aimed at achieving the objective of energy efficient modes of transport outlined by the MoUD is underway. These manuals and toolkits target planners and designers engaged in urban transport development at state and municipal levels. These manuals and toolkits on land use transport integration, intelligent transport system for traffic management, access to public transport, urban travel demand modelling, financing and financial analysis, analysis of urban traffic systems, environmental analysis, transport demand management, road safety and safety audits and urban traffic system design and evaluation, are being prepared by urban and transport development institutes and Centres of Excellence of the MoUD.
- Awareness building through newsletters focuses on sustainable transport through energy-efficient transport developments, travel patterns and sharing of innovative initiatives to stakeholders in states and urban centres.
- Greater dissemination has been enabled through a workshop in Indore, Madhya Pradesh to share learnings with the city’s mayor, other relevant city officials, media and NGOs.
- The knowledge management centre database developed under the project is serving as a national store house for all urban transport sector related information, policies and data.

**Looking to the future**

- The project will further enhance the institutional capacity of government agencies engaged in urban transport planning and regulations national and state urban transport departments in five municipal corporations – Raipur, Mysore, Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad and Indore.

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