



Chief Minister Punjab Inaugurated the Mobile GIS setup of the Urban Unit, P&D Department, Punjab

The Urban Unit, P&D Department has developed a web-based Geographical Information System (GIS) branded as IRIS for integrating data and information at all administrative levels in Punjab. This system is designed to be the backbone for the Punjab "Provincial Spatial Data Infrastructure" with the ability to transform into an integrated nationwide system. IRIS is a critical technological tool that will ensure prudent urban governance with its ability to visualize, share and manage data while bringing transparency and accountability at all levels. The Urban Unit has also developed a mobile IRIS facility to ensure fast data collection from all over Punjab.

Chief Minister Punjab Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Shareef inaugurated the Mobile IRIS unit on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at the Chief Minister House, Lahore.



Chief Minister Punjab Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Shareef at the Inaugural Ceremony

The Chief Minister Punjab appreciated the efforts of the Urban Unit, P&D Department and said that this initiative will bring a revolutionary change in urban governance. He said that IRIS will help improve the performance of the departments in Punjab and that the government must move forward towards this direction speedily. He further added that geographic information system (GIS) is very useful and this web based modern technology will play a vital role in resolving the problems of the common man.

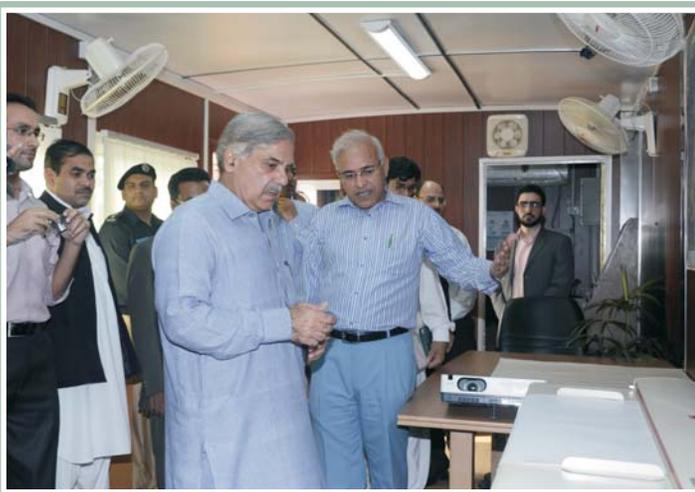
He congratulated Mr. Javaid Aslam, Chairman P&D Board, GoPb and Dr. Nasir Javed, Project Director Urban Unit, P&D Department on the development of IRIS and its mobile unit.



The Urban Unit team at the Inaugural Ceremony

UNDP funded the entire 'state of the art' mobile GIS unit (Mobile IRIS)

UNDP funded a container equipped with GIS hardware & software along with all interior provisions. This funding was made available through Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) for improvement in land administration and preservation of land revenue record for the Province.



Dr. Nasir Javed explaining the functions of IRIS to the Chief Minister Punjab

At the inauguration, Dr. Nasir Javed, project director of the Urban Unit gave a brief presentation to the Chief Minister on the importance of a GIS based province wide information management system. He highlighted that IRIS has the capability to provide the decision makers with geographical based, efficient, reliable and accurate information, which is crucial for high-quality and effective decision making. IRIS Punjab has the capacity to facilitate all the governance functions including regulation, management and planning.

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THE URBAN Newsletter

Three days consultative workshop organized by WSP-SA, World Bank in collaboration with HUD& PHED and The Urban Unit.

The Water and Sanitation Program – South Asia (WSP-SA) organized a workshop in collaboration with HUD & PHED and The Urban Unit to discuss the performance of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) that work within the rural water supply schemes in Punjab. This was a three day consultative workshop, held at Avari Hotel Lahore between 21- 23 November, 2011. This was specifically designed to provide the CBOs with assistance and advice required for better management and performance.

WSP-SA is also supporting the Government of the Punjab (GoPb), HUD&PHED in devising a “Backup Support Mechanism” for the CBOs (who are responsible for their respective schemes) in order to overcome the failure of schemes due to the lack of technical and management support.

The Urban Unit introduced GIS and Mobile Phone Applications for CBO's working in Rural Water Supply Schemes at WAP-PA workshop

The GIS sector of the Urban Unit has developed a GIS based mobile phone application for the rural water supply sector of Punjab. This application was introduced by Dr. Nasir Javed, Project Director, the Urban Unit during the three day consultative workshop on “Sustaining the Community Managed Operations in Rural Water Supply Sector, Punjab”, in Avari Lahore.

At the workshop, he gave a detailed demonstration on the use of this application in areas with Rural Water Supply schemes. Dr. Nasir explained how this initiative of the Urban Unit which uses a simple hand held device i.e. a mobile phone, can simplify and make faster the long and tedious process of performance reporting of our Community Based Organizations (CBOs) working with rural water supply schemes.

He also highlighted that in addition to mobile phones, the android operating system on smart phones can later be used for conducting surveys etc.

This will inject a whole new level of transparency, efficiency, and accountability in the schemes. He explained that by combining the Android cell phone technology and the GIS software developed by the Urban Unit a field worker can map tens of thousands of water points accurately throughout the province. Moreover, an inspector can visit any asset and send real-time status updates from using a GPS-enabled Android-based smart phone. The submitted data automatically pops up on a map in real-time with GPS accuracy of five meters. This data can be monitored by senior officials through a web map interface.

Demonstration of GIS used for Dengue Control

During the demonstration at the WSP-SA workshop, Dr. Nasir further explained that this application and technology was first used to collect data for dengue. He showed the GIS maps representing various databases related to dengue that had been created using this application. The GIS maps demonstrated to the participants contained various dengue related information including the number of cases of dengue patients that had been recorded in Lahore, the unoccupied beds available in all the public and private hospitals within the city, clinics and dispensaries in the city, etc. He explained that the database and its corresponding maps were updated on daily basis and that these GIS based applications can be used for performance monitoring and evaluation of assets in many schemes and area.

Pilot Project for Chakwal & Rahim Yar Khan

Mr. Suhail Aamir, Secretary HUD&PHED assured the CBO's that a pilot project of these applications can be initiated in the two selected schemes of Chakwal and Rahim Yar Khan Districts as soon as possible. He emphasized that the Urban Unit will provide all the technical assistant and support required for the training and implementation of these mobile phone applications.



Participants of the Workshop



Dr. Nasir Javed along with Mr. Ehsan Saqib presenting GIS mobile phone applications

The Urban Unit celebrated World Habitat Day 2011 with UN Habitat

The Urban Unit celebrated the World Habitat Day 2011 in collaboration with UN Habitat. The theme for the event was 'Cities and Climate Change'. The event comprised of various activities including an engaging vision building workshop and an intense discussion on Pakistani cities and climate change. Representatives from government organizations, civil society, United Nations agencies, academia and the private sector attended the event with the conviction that building our cities together will lead to a better future. A book titled 'Cities and Climate Change and Quick Guide for Policy Makers on Housing' was also launched on the occasion. The key speakers included Mr. Sayed Shabih ul Hassan Chairman CRP Department, UET, Mr. Kamil Khan Mumtaz Architect, Mr. Riaz Akhtar Provincial Manager UN-Habitat Punjab and Dr. Adul Aleem Chudry Climate Change Expert. The speakers highlighted the need of celebrating this day yearly and shared their suggestions to manage the rapidly increasing negative influence of climate change and extreme weathers in cities. They also emphasized the need for participation from individuals, community and the government to deal with the issue of our cities and climate change.



Meeting at the Urban Unit to develop social accountability network

Fifteen NGOs from all over the Punjab showed keen interest and actively participated in the interactive meeting. Mr. Fayyaz Yaseen, a representative of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Pakistan chaired the workshop. He explained the background and importance of social accountability in Pakistan particularly in Punjab. All the representatives of the NGOs shared their views, personal experiences, and challenges and gave useful suggestions regarding development of PSAN while appreciating the efforts of The Urban Unit and the Sustainable Development Policy Institute.

The Urban Unit with the help of Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) drafted a working paper to share with all major stakeholders in the social sector with the hope of starting a dialogue for the preparation of a framework for the creation of the network, finalizing the details regarding the formal launch of Pakistan Social Accountability Network (PSAN) and identifying the areas where sustainable accountability mechanisms can be implemented.

Urban Transportation Project Sheikhupura

The Urban Unit, Planning and Development Department Punjab is providing technical assistance for an Urban Transportation Project in Sheikhupura to improve the existing transport infrastructure of the city.

TMA Sheikhupura decided to develop a Traffic Circulation Plan, a Multi-modal Truck Terminal and a Multi-modal Bus Terminal for the city. The city's goal is to invest in projects that will help decrease the various problems arising from the lack of adequate transport infrastructure. Keeping the requirements in mind, The Urban Unit developed plans for these projects, which aim at ensuring that there will be free flowing traffic circulation in Sheikhupura in the future. The proposal identified the weaknesses in the existing transport infrastructure and emphasized the need to create awareness regarding traffic rules and regulations



Vision Building activity in progress

Development of Social Accountability Network with Sustainable Development Policy Institute

The Urban Unit Planning and Development Department, Government of Punjab developed the concept for a Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in order to create an affiliated Network for Social Accountability.

The first meeting to develop the Pakistan Social Accountability Network (PSAN) was held at the Urban Unit in (mention month here). The aim was to bring together all the stakeholders under one roof and find out the real issues of the people in Punjab.



Interns conducting traffic circulation survey

among the general public. The plans shared with TMA Sheikhpura also included the existing and future needs regarding transportation in the city.

To develop the proposals both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used to collect data. A Traffic survey was conducted in Sheikhpura to count the number of vehicles entering and exiting the city during a 24 hour time frame. Features of existing road networks were also studied for quantitative analysis. Focus group discussions formulated the qualitative assessment to determine the existing and future traffic demand while highlighting the shortfalls in the present facilities.

The results will help improve walking facilities through the provision of safe and accessible pedestrian infrastructure, while ensuring and enhancing the safety for both pedestrians and vehicle users through the installment of traffic signals and signs and reduced ill-legal parking. The proposed bus and truck terminal design is in harmony with the prevailing and the future intended land-use patterns for the city and it also aims at satisfying and help achieve the 2030 vision of the GoPb.

Regeneration Proposal for Mall Road Murree

The Mall Road Murree was constructed in 1860. Since then it is the biggest attraction for tourists. On an average during the summer season 1.5 lacs to 2.00 lacs tourists and during the snowfall season 30,000 to 50,000 tourists visits Mall Road per day. Over the last many years The Mall has not only been neglected on consecutive regimes but also due to uncontrolled and haphazard interventions by the business community The Mall has lost its grandeur. It offers great potential for revitalization and regeneration. The need is felt

by the local Administration that an effort shall be made to take The Mall back to its original beauty and grandeur. Although what is lost in the sands of time cannot be restored to its original but The Urban Unit is taking lead in planning for the regeneration of Mall Road, as whatever is left can be restored and preserved with planned interventions.

The Urban Unit has proposed a regeneration strategy to the City Government of Murree after conducting a comprehensive survey of the Mall Road. The primary objective of regeneration intervention is to provide a) a new or revived economic base b) to celebrate historic and cultural heritage.

The Urban Unit has created an on scale 3D of the existing Mall Road structures with detailed before & after visuals and GIS based maps of the Mall Road - strip.

The regeneration proposal intends to capitalize on Mall Road's own strengths and potentials towards creating solutions that would facilitate a unique Mall Road specific identity by restoration of historical buildings along the Mall; façade improvements using flower pots, canopies for the shops and newly painted shops; redesigning and fabrication of shop signs; design and treatment of blank walls, benches, roads and Nighat Zar Park.

The District Coordination Officer (DCO) Murree has shown keen interest in the proposal. The regeneration of Mall Road will serve as a prototype for other areas in Punjab.



Sample GIS Map of the Murree Mall Road

Call for Papers

Pakistan Journal of Urban Affairs, Urban Unit's quarterly research journal, welcomes submission of papers from scholars, practitioners, researchers and public sector professionals.

For more details: <http://www.pjua.gov.pk/>

