

# City Development for People by People

12 Participants

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# Key Points

Cities are for people, by people, of people

- Planning, investment and development is for them
- Yet, dialogue, planning and delivery systems mostly keep people out-- especially, the marginalized and the poor people
- Either they are considered unworthy of engagement or incapable of meaningful contribution and participation
- Or the mechanisms, tools and procedures required to engage them meaning fully are absent or inadequate
- This is a major cause for things not working out, for the failure of 'development'
- A likely major area of Asian urban crisis—not only not being able to meet their needs but failing to bring them into the mainstream of urban life.
- Reaching 'development' to them
- Making them live a dignified life
- This must happen fast, within a finite timeline, and
- It must happen 'well'

- Bringing people in the center of the planning and development process is the key to a proper and sustainable development
- Seeing city development through the eyes of the people – a bottom of perspective of development-- will change problems, plans, priorities and solutions. Also change the resource equation .Also the nature of the sustainability crisis.
- Societies have changed
- Development issues have changed
- There is a recognition of “people perspective”
- Yet people do not have space to be able to make things happen
- That has been taken over by others
- Restoring that space to people is critical to proper,

- The essence of the people process is to organize and mobilize  
capacitate and empower  
For collective self realization, bargaining capacity and political strength
- to shape their own destiny, and
- make the system take cognition of their needs and their  
ways to meeting them.
- If that happens neither the resource is a problem nor “success”
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- Peoples power and energy need to be channeled.
- Governments, who represents people formally, are supposed to speak  
for people
- But they do not do it always; And they often do not do it well
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- Civil society also speaks for people, but there are constraints
- Organizing is not sufficient
- Capacity is low and energy is limited
- Legal framework, required for engagement with the government,  
is not strong enough
- Accountability, both internal and external, is weak, and
- Advocacy is still largely at project, micro level not at macro level

- Meeting people's basic needs is an obligation of a welfare state.
- Democratic polity will ensure that
- Also the emerging people power
- The bottleneck is the delivery system
- It needs to be streamlined, to be made more participatory, transparent and people sensitive.
- That will improve quality and reach and plug leakages
- Though whose intermediation—public or private --then will become less important

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- Public-private partnership was debated here
- In the above perspective , for it to deliver, 4 not 3 “Ps” are needed

## Public-Private-**People**- Partnership

If that happens the chemistry and dynamics of the relationship will change. Also the outcome

In absence of People “P” ,,on the side of the Public “P” (government ) 3 other “Ps” take over

Personal gain’

Party gain

Political gain

The 4<sup>th</sup> “:P” in this equation, the “Professional” could also easily become an accomplice

The larger public good and the **people** will suffer

PPP without 4<sup>th</sup> P would work. But may not deliver..

How to introduce the 4<sup>th</sup> P is an organizational design

- If not a paradigm shift, attitude and approach needs to change
- If slum is a problem, it is one response
- If slum is a poor people's solution to their housing problem, it is a different response
- Then the poor people will not be a burden but a resource
- If the in-situ upgrading is an acceptable solution, the "unsolvable" problem becomes "solve-able".

- Trust people
- Let them make decisions
- Let them find their solutions
- Trust them to handle funds

- It works
- See credit and savings Groups
- See CODis' work in Thailand
- Study ACHR's Urban Poor Fund initiatives
- The result is the same.
- It works