

3rd International Conference on
Urban and Regional Planning (ICURP 2023)
*Spatial Planning for Sustainable Development –
Achieving National and Global Goals*

The Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka
23-25 September 2023

Bangladesh Institute of Planners



Background

Strengthening peace and prosperity through global and local leadership and partnership is a must for achieving the common goal for human development, environmental sustainability and economic wellbeing.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Paris agreement, and Sendai Framework have made our vision and commitments more compelling and timebound. The SDGs are meant to serve as a common target for people and the planet, now and in the future. The Paris Agreement aims to strengthen countries' ability to deal with the impacts of climate change and support them in their efforts while the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 is the global blueprint to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk. Almost all countries were in collaborative partnership for the implementation of these plans until the recent global crisis: Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and Ukraine war in 2022. Both have posed an outsized obstruction in attaining the global goals, impacted the global supply chain, caused economic and social disruption, and finally have led to a global humanitarian crisis.

In such a context, Bangladesh, among few other countries, is still an exception. Under the strong leadership (both in local and global platforms, strategically and actively) of the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Bangladesh has crossed the Lower Middle-Income threshold in 2015, and is heading steadily towards meeting all criteria for graduation from LDC status. In addition to global commitments, the Bangladesh government through its Perspective Plan 2041, Delta plan 2100, My village My Town initiative has also undertaken several programs and policies for ensuring **social justice, shared prosperity, climate resilient urban development, and climate adaptive development**.

Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) believes that urban, regional and rural planning can add a significant value in achieving the stated global and national targets and translate them at city, rural and community levels. The institute aims to host the 3rd International Conference on Urban and Regional Planning (ICURP) to display and further explore the path of contributions that the discipline and its professionals can make. The theme of the conference is ***“Spatial Planning for Sustainable Development-Achieving National and Global Goals”***. This conference will provide a point of reflection, and a moment to catalyze how we can work together to go beyond the boundaries and overcome the difficulties in order to attain the global and national targets in Bangladesh.

This conference serves as a pivotal convergence point for a diverse array of stakeholders in the realms of urban and rural planning, with a resolute objective to forge synergistic pathways towards the realization of Bangladesh's national and governmental vision of fostering sustainable urban development while adeptly managing **climate-induced migration** through **strategic spatial planning**. Its multifaceted goals encompass the

exchange of a rich tapestry of research findings, insights, and best practices concerning urban migration's intricate interplay with climate change before a varied audience comprising urban planning luminaries, policymakers, and stakeholders. Moreover, it seeks to fervently champion policies and planning paradigms that prioritize the **resilience** and well-being of **climate migrants and vulnerable urban populations**, offering a transformative platform within ICURP to wield influence over urban planning agendas on local, national, and global scales, with a spotlight on proactive measures to ameliorate climate change's impacts on urban landscapes. Additionally, the conference endeavors to forge a collective comprehension of the challenges confronted by **local governments, policymakers**, and climate migrants grappling with **climate-induced migration**, striving to amass a reservoir of innovative ideas that can crystallize into practical tools and strategies empowering local governments in their preparations to support climate migrants in future project blueprints. Here the experiences of the “Urban Management of Internal Migration due to Climate Change” (UMIMCC)/ “Urban Management of Migration and Livelihood (UMML)” project can be used. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and co-funded by the European Union (EU) and aims to improve the living conditions of climate migrants and urban vulnerable poor in selected cities of Bangladesh. The political partner is the Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW). It also aims to showcase pioneering solutions and milestones achieved through different programs and projects, with the aspiration of inspiring other regions and organizations to adopt analogous approaches and interventions when grappling with the multifaceted issues stemming from climate-induced migration within urban environments. Furthermore, it aligns seamlessly with the conference's thematic emphasis on "Spatial Planning for Attaining National and Global Goals," underscoring the paramount importance of weaving climate resilience and migration considerations into the very fabric of urban planning processes, particularly with regard to the land rights and tenure of climate migrants.

Lastly, the conference endeavors to kindle awareness among both its attendees and the broader public regarding the pressing urgency of addressing rapid urbanization, climate change, climate-induced migration and other urban issues in urban domains. It also plays the pivotal role in focusing urban planning which can be a key solution to the deleterious repercussions thereof, nurturing a groundswell of support and commitment from stakeholders dedicated to this pivotal endeavor.

Organizer

Being the national professional body for Urban, Regional and Rural Planners in Bangladesh, BIP has been working to ensure the planned and orderly development of the urban and rural areas across the country through its various activities. Administration of training and

workshops, seminars, conferences are one of the significant activities of BIP to expand knowledge of sustainable planning, management, and development of the urban, rural, and regional areas in Bangladesh. The conference will be held for the third time in 2023. ICURP was officially launched in 2019 for the first time and 2021 for the second. A short brief of the past conferences are as follows;



ICURP 2019

The 1st International Conference on Urban and Regional Planning (ICURP) was held on 5-6 October 2019 with the presence of Honorable Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Md. Tajul Islam PM as a chief guest. The conference aided as a potential international platform for the leading academics, researchers, scholars, prominent national and International NGO representatives and decision-makers working in Urban and Regional Planning around the world to exchange their research works, and new ideas, share knowledge and explore recent developments of this field.

With the main theme “*Planning for Sustainable Cities and Communities*”, ICURP 2019 highlighted on a wide variety of fields of Urban and Regional Planning including;

- Urban Planning and Management,
- Housing - Community Planning – Environmental Management-Sustainable Cities and Settlements,
- Transport – Infrastructure – Urban Economy and Governance, and
- Regional and Rural Planning – Disaster Management – Climate Change.



ICURP 2021

The Second International Conference on Urban and Regional Planning (ICURP) was held from October 30, 2021, to November 6, 2021, in collaboration with GIZ, DSCC, DNCC, DWASA, FAO, UN-Habitat, Save the Children, and ISOCARP. The conference created a great platform for exchanging new ideas, sharing knowledge, and exploring recent developments in the field of Urban and Regional Planning during this extraordinary time with planners, professionals, academics, practitioners, scientists, researchers, scholars, and decision-makers around the world.

Covid pandemic has posed several challenges to traditional planning practices leading the planning norms and ideas to major shifts in pursuit of attaining the goal of inclusiveness and sustainability in post Pandemic era. In this backdrop, BIP organized the 2nd International Conference on Urban and Regional Planning (ICURP 2021) with the theme “*Planning for*

Inclusiveness and Sustainability in Post Pandemic Era". Under the broad theme, the conference focused on the following sub-themes.

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and New Urban Agenda - Spatial Planning for Including Each Person and Place in the Planet
- Paris agreement and UN Climate Change Conferences (COPs): Implications for Urban, Regional and Rural Planning
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: Mainstreaming Resilience in Planning and Development
- BDP 2100, Bangladesh Perspective Plan 2041 and National Physical Planning: Integration, Inclusiveness and Prosperity
- My Village, My Town – Sweet Home and Smart Living in Healthy Cities and Communities
- Education and Institution for Innovation and Capacity Development
- Putting Planning First, then Projects - Investment in Housing and Infrastructure
- Transformative Mobility for Cities and Regions

This conference was centered on the issues that pandemic has made it necessary to reevaluate traditional planning approaches. With the goal of advancing toward the achievement of inclusivity and sustainability in the post-pandemic period, the conference represented the most recent developments and anticipated trends in planning and development practices in the post-pandemic era

ICURP 2023

As already stated, the past two conferences highlighted several urban, regional, and rural planning issues. With the experience, this year BIP aims to contribute to the formulation of the government planning policies and reforming proposals in line with attaining the national and global targets. Hence, the main goal of the conference is to hand over the reformed policies and proposals to the governmental and international organization heads. Hence, the conference targets the presence of the Prime Minister, respective sector Ministry (Minister, Secretary and leads), urban change-makers, active Development Partners, leading private sector entities, NGOs, and INGOs. The work plan for the conference is attached in Annex-1.

Themes

The conference will explore a variety of themes that explore the role of planning, with a cross-cutting intersectional focus on both national and global targets. Each theme will present keynote speakers and presentations, host relevant debates and discussions in a collaborative approach & highlight best practices within each thematic area in terms of policy and programs.

The conference will explore a plethora of themes pertinent to planning and urban development, interlinking both national and global targets. Emphasis will be placed on **sustainable urban development** and how to make **cities smarter**, more **adaptive**, and prepared for the challenges of **climate change and climate-induced internal migration**.

Unlike the previous events, papers are invited from multidisciplinary fields with the expectation that at the end of the day, new insight will emerge that will shed light on the key theme of the conference. With this expectation, papers are invited from the following themes:

- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and New Urban Agenda** - Spatial Planning for Including Each Person and Place in the Planet
- **Paris agreement and UN Climate Change Conferences (COPs)**: Implications for Urban, Regional and Rural Planning
- **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**: Mainstreaming Resilience in Planning and Development
- **BDP 2100, Bangladesh Perspective Plan 2041 and National Physical Planning**: Integration, Inclusiveness and Prosperity
- My Village, My Town – Sweet Home and Smart Living in Healthy Cities and Communities. A deep dive into how **smart city initiatives** can transform the urban landscape, making them more **sustainable and adaptable**.
- Education and Institution for Innovation and Capacity Development
- Putting Planning First, then Projects - Investment in Housing and Infrastructure
- **Climate Resilient Urban Development**: A New Paradigm for Urban Planners. How to incorporate resilience in urban planning, ensuring cities can withstand and adapt to the vagaries of climate change.
- **Climate Induced Internal Migration**: The Urban Challenge. Addressing the movement of populations within countries due to climate change, and how urban areas can prepare and adapt.
- **Transformative Mobility for Cities and Regions**: Integrating **Smart Cities** Concepts for Efficient Urban Mobility.

Proposed Programs & Format

Conference Programs and Format

The main program of the ICURP 2023 will be segmented into several parallel sessions covering ten thematic clusters' prioritized areas. The primary goal of these sessions, in line with the conference's overarching topic, is to demonstrate the role of planning in shaping

the sustainable future of Bangladesh. These sessions will be led by sectoral experts and representatives of stakeholders.

Research & Publications

BIP initiates a good number of researches every year on the contemporary issues of urbanization with a broad aim to solve the country's urban problems. The researched studies will be hand over to the Honorable Prime minister in the closing session of the conference.

Program Outline

ICURP 2023 will be a three-day event segmented in the following sessions designed to support the key objectives and reflect the main theme.



- **Opening session** will mainly cover the inauguration of the event.
- Following the event's inauguration, a **plenary session** will be held where all participants are expected to gather in one place. The major objectives under the key theme of the conference will be represented to the participants by the event convener. The session will be also be platform of speed networking among the participants.
- **Parallel sessions** will enable direct interactions among participants. Ten sessions focusing on the themes of the conference (stated above), will be running parallelly in the first two days of the event. The participant will present their research to the audiences. The main aim of the sessions is to identify how urban, rural and regional planning can play significant roles in the various sectors of Bangladesh.
- In the **Poster exhibition** session, the interested participants can display their research posters in the designated section of the venue. The exhibition will be held for the entire program.
- **Closing session** will be held in the last day of the event, segmented into four parts. The first section named 'Summing up' will bring participants together to discuss the findings of the thematic ten parallel sessions. Rapporteurs from each group will provide a brief summary of the workshop discussions and highlight the major problems, potential solutions, and applicable examples of practice. A facilitated debate and reflections on the key messages emerging from the conference will be offered in the second section (Key lessons and way forward). Cultural program will be held in the third segment of the session. And the program will be ended in the following session featuring the book giving and awarding ceremony.

The session outline is attached in Annex 2.

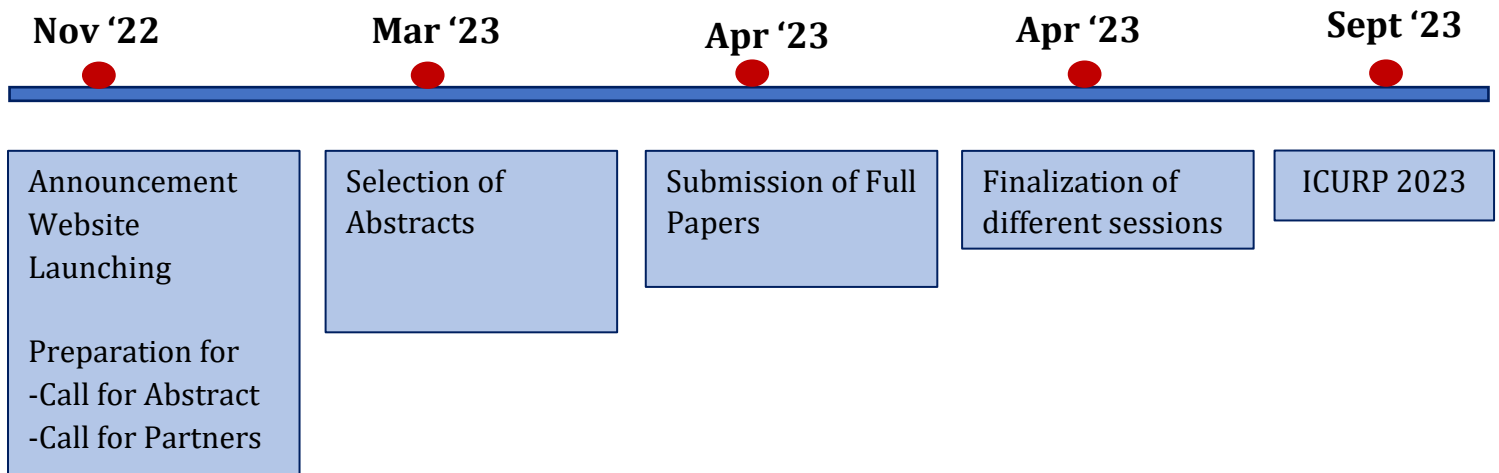
Organizing committee

BIP will be at the center of organizing committee of ICURP 2023. It is going to host the largest urban agglomerations in the Bangladesh with an aim to present the roles of spatial planning in achieving its national and global. International and national organizations as well as various development partners will also collaborate with BIP as sponsors and strategic partners.

Participation in the Conference

As we know, participatory process with representation from all stakeholders is vital for fostering any successful event. Hence, the organizing committee is going to invite **Honorable Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury** as the **Chief Guest**, respective sector Ministry (Minister, Secretary and leads), urban change-makers, active Development Partners, leading private sector entities, NGOs, INGOs, CSOs and media in different thematic sessions as key stakeholders. The participation of stakeholders from outside of Dhaka, women, the disabled, minorities, and young people will receive special attention.

Annex 1: Work Plan



Annex-2: Program Outline

3rd International Conference on Urban and Regional Planning (3rd ICURP)

	23 September Ball Room	24 September Ballroom + Padma		25 September Padma + Meghna	
9:30-11:00	Opening Ballroom	Session 1 - Bangladesh Urban Vision 2050: From Planning to Practice [German Development Cooperation] Ballroom		Session 5 - Preparedness of Urban local government for addressing climate -induced migration in local spatial planning [German Development Cooperation&EU] Padma	
11:00-11:30	Tea Break				
11:30-13:00	High level roundtable Discussion Ballroom	Session 2- Increasing Accessibility of Climate Finance by Addressing Local Challenges (German Development Cooperation + ICLEI) Ballroom 1	Parallel Session 6 - Climate Resilience: Hands on experience from urban hotspot [German Development Cooperation & CBF] Ballroom 2	Session 7 - Towards Integrated Urban Planning and Development: Dialogue between Urban Practitioners in Japan and Bangladesh [Tokyo Development Center & World Bank] Padma	Technical Parallel Session- 7 Community Resilience and Spatial Planning: Vulnerabilities, Responses, and Strategies Meghna
13:00-14:00 Lunch	Restaurant + Ballroom Part 2		Ballroom Part 2 + Padma		Restaurant + Meghna

14:00-15:30	Technical Parallel Session- 01 Sustainable Urban Livelihoods: Assessments, Practices, and Planning for Health and Housing Ballroom	Ballroom part 2	Parallel Session 3 LGED Session (ADB and AFD funded Project) Ballroom	Technical Parallel Session 4 - Intersections of Population Dynamics and Sustainable Urban & Regional Planning Padma	Session 8- Smart City Development in Bangladesh -sharing co-created knowledge and experiences from Bangladesh JICA cooperation [JICA] Padma
15:30-16:00	Tea Break				
16:00-17:30	Technical Parallel Session 2 - Climate Resilient Urban Development	Technical Parallel Session- 03 Sustainable Mobility and Accessibility: Innovative Transportation Strategies in Developing Urban Landscapes Ballroom Part 2	Technical Parallel Session 5 - Integration of Urban Migration into Sustainable Planning Ballroom	Technical Parallel Session- 6 Assessing and Addressing Environmental Risks in Urban Areas Ballroom part 2	(16:00 – 18:00) Dhaka Declaration followed by closing ceremony
			Parallel Session 4- Planning Education in Bangladesh [7 planning School] Padma		(18:00 – 18:20) Launching of Dhaka Bank and BIP Credit Card
18:00-19:00					Padma
19:00-20:00					Dinner