



PAKSTRAN
PAKISTAN SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT PROJECT

Activity of Walk on Better Transport! Let's Breathe Fresh in NUST, Pakistan

November 11, 2014 - Islamabad

EVENT REPORT



Background

Urban transport activity is a key component of economic development and human welfare and is rapidly increasing around the world as economies grow. The most pressing problems associated with this increasing transport activity are traffic fatalities and injuries, congestion, air pollution and associated ecological, economic and social impacts. Climate change is being caused by the transport sector's growing role in world energy use and the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs).

In Pakistan, the transport sector contributes to the national carbon emissions, and is responsible for more than half of the oil consumed in Pakistan. Owing to the growth of the economy and hence population, the number of vehicles on the road have also increased from 2.7 million in 1990 to 5.5 million in 2005 (an increase of over 100%), and increased to 9.8 million by 2010.

Transport System in Pakistan

Road transport is the backbone of Pakistan's transport system. The 9,574 km long National Highway and Motorway network, which is 3.65 percent of the total road network, carries 80 percent of Pakistan's total traffic. Over the past ten years, road traffic, both passenger and freight, has grown faster than the national economy. Currently it accounts for 91 percent of the national passenger traffic and 96 percent of freight.

The absence of a public transportation system (particularly in urban centers) has led to an increase transport problems. An extraordinarily expanded transport network (mainly with the focus only on infrastructure development) and increasing population density is exacerbating the problem. Dependence upon road transport is also causing increased congestion, degradation of air quality, with a dramatic increase in GHG emissions. The associated ecological, social, economic and health related impacts are also increasing significantly enough to a point of effecting daily life.

Need for Sustainable Urban Transport (SUT)

Based on the above analysis and the significance of GHG emissions from the urban transport sector, in addition to its expected growth, it is imperative that such interventions are designed that offer an opportunity to promote sustainable modes of transport and attempt to maintain some sort of balance. Besides mitigating climate change, the role of Sustainable Urban Transport (SUT) is vital for improved living conditions, particularly for urban dwellers in Pakistan.

It is estimated that Pakistan has the potential of saving at least 20 percent of the energy used in transport sector. Also, the increased usage of public transport has been identified as a policy option for Pakistan to reduce GHG emissions from this sector by making the shift towards public transport. Promotion of sustainable means of transport is considered vital for future sustainable development in the country and carries other considerable benefits such as: reduced congestion, pollution, consumption of fossil fuels and health problems, besides mitigation climate change.

About PAKSTRAN

To address the transport and related problems in the country, the Pakistan Sustainable Transport Project (PAKSTRAN) is being implemented by Government of Pakistan.

Objective

The objective of the Project is 'to reduce the growth of energy consumption and related greenhouse gas emissions from Pakistan's transport sector, while simultaneously improving urban environmental conditions and improving Pakistan's competitiveness'.

Expected Outcomes/Outputs

The expected outcomes of PAKSTRAN are:

Outcome 1: Operational urban transport system in Punjab province

Outcome 2: Operational urban transport system in Sindh province

Outcome 3: Improved energy efficiency in truck freight transport

Outcome 4: Increased public awareness and institutional capacity on sustainable transport concepts.

The output of PAKSTRAN is 'Environment mainstreamed across the development sector plans and programmes'.

PAKSTRAN will guide this through:

- Demonstrating international best practices planning and implementation of integrated urban transport systems,
- Strengthening the institutional and policy framework for urban transportation,
- Demonstrating international best practices for modernizing the trucking fleet; creating an investment environment with widespread stakeholder acceptance,
- Raising public awareness and knowledge of issues in sustainable urban transport and fuel-efficient transport in Pakistan.

Introduction

As part of Outcome 4 i.e. 'Increased public awareness and institutional capacity on sustainable transport concepts' it was important to engage the youth of Islamabad, so that they may have a better understanding of what basically PAKSTRAN is and how it is beneficial for all.

For this purpose National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) was approached and a walk was organized under the Pakistan Sustainable Transport (PAKSTRAN) Project in NUST, H-12, Islamabad. The event aimed at effectively engaging the students and youth of Pakistan to raise the awareness related to sustainable transport.

It was attended by the prominent faculty members of NUST and key project stakeholders (List of participants attached as Annex II). The total number of precipitants was almost 350.

Proceedings

Presentations

Welcome Remarks & Introduction to PAKSTRAN and awareness raising priorities - Mr. Hasan Zaman

Hasan Zaman, Communications Officer, PAKSTRAN, IUCN Pakistan in his welcome remarks gave brief overview of the PAKSTRAN Project, and welcomed and thanked the faculty and students of NUST, NUST Environmental Club (NEC) and Climate change and Atmospheric Research Group (C-Cargo) in showing keen interest and participation in the activity of walk.

Mr. Zaman also gave presentations that began with an introduction to the PAKSTRAN and also described the Project's activities under the approved work plan for 2014 and explained what awareness raising and capacity building activities were being planned under Outcome 4 i.e. 'Increased public awareness and institutional capacity on sustainable transport concepts'.

Activity I: Walk

All the participants including students, faculty members of NUST, and key stakeholder of the project gathered for the walk activity in front of Institute of Environmental Science and Engineering (IESE), NUST. The walk was conducted within the premises of NUST in a circular walking track of almost 2 KM. after the activity, Dr. Fahim Khokhar, Assistant Professor, acknowledged the effort made by PAKSTRAN and thanked all the participants.

Activity II: Cycling

After the activity of walk, students participated in a small cycling competition. It was the initiative of the students, and was conducted with in the NUST campus.

Annex I

Agenda

Time	Activity	Remarks
11:00	Arrival of Guests	
11:15	Presentation from IUCN Representatives	Mr. Hasan Zaman Communications Officer, PAKSTRAN IUCN
12:00	Initiation of walk	
12:00 - 1:00	Walk	
1:00 – 1:30	Refreshments	
1:30 – 2:00	Cycling Rally	
2:00 – 2:45	Cycling Competition	
2:45 – 3:00	Closing Remarks	Dr. Fahim Khokhar Assistant Professor, Environmental Sciences IESE, NUST

Annex II

List of participants

Sr# Name	Designation	Organization
PMU PAKSTRAN		
1 Mr. Muhammad Tajwar Khan	M & E Officer	PMU
IUCN Pakistan		
2 Mr. Hasan Zaman	Communications Officer	IUCN
3 Mr. Qamber Zaidi	Awareness Campaign Media Consultant	IUCN
4 Ms Palwasha Khattak	Consultant Awareness Campaign	IUCN
NUST		
5 Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed Qazi	Professor, Associate Dean	NUST
6 Dr. Fahim Khokhar	Assistant Professor	NUST
7 Dr Imran Hashmi	Professor	NUST
8 Dr. Saud Ahmed Khan	Assistant Professor	NUST
9 Erum Aamir	Assistant Professor	NUST
10 Dr. Sher jamal	Assistant Professor	NUST
11 Dr. Muhammad Arshad	Assistant Professor	NUST
Many number of students	Students	NUST

Annex III

Photographs from the event

