



PAKSTRAN
PAKISTAN SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT PROJECT

Inter-University Debate Competition Better Transport! Let's Breathe Fresh in FAST-NU, Pakistan

November 24, 2014 - Lahore

EVENT REPORT

PAKSTRAN
PAKISTAN SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT PROJECT

PAKSTRAN
PAKISTAN SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT PROJECT

UNDP

gef

IUCN

FAST-NU

VOICE
GIVING THE VOICE

FACE
REWRAPING THE WORLD

**Better transport,
Let's breathe fresh!**

DEBATE COMPETITION ON 24TH NOV' 14

TOPIC: Will a mass transit system benefit the youth?

www.pakstran.pk

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 Lahore, 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 Computer and Emerging Sciences commonly known as FAST-NU was approached and a debate competition was organized under the Pakistan Sustainable Transport (PAKSTRAN) Project in FAST-NU, Faisal Town Lahore. 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 FAST-NU and key project stakeholders (List of participants attached as Annex II).

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 FAST-NU, FAST Voice Club in showing keen interest and participation in the competition.

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 II: PAKSTRAN Documentary Screening-"A Road to Sustainability"

The presentations were followed by screening of the documentary "**The Road to Sustainability**". There was a huge round of applause from the students at the end of documentary showing that message has been conveyed in an appropriate manner

Activity II: Debate Competition

Students from premier institutions like FAST-NU, Punjab University, Lahore University of Management Sciences and University of Veterinary Sciences participated in the event.

The participants from various disciplinarians like engineering, management, law and others debated For and Against on the topic "**Will a mass transit system benefit the youth?**" The topic was selected to know the opinion of young students which on the topic of sustainable transportation and mass transits system.

The participants spoke excellently making it exuberant with surfeit of arguments and counter arguments. In the end, Saad Nadeem Sheikh from FAST-NU was adjudged as the best debater along with Mubasra Zaidi was declared as runner up in the competition.

Dr. Syed Muratza Bukhari- Project Director at Transport Planning Unit, Govt. of the Punjab, Pakistan who acted as the chief guest and judge for the event concluded in his closing remarks, that the debate was lively with a plethora of arguments and counter arguments. He further explained the audience why better transportation was critical in these times when Pakistan's urban centers are clogged with surging traffic.

Annex I

Agenda

Time	Activity	Remarks
11:00 am	Arrival of Guests	
11:05 am	Presentation from IUCN Representatives	Mr. Hasan Zaman Communications Officer, PAKSTRAN IUCN
11:15-11-45 pm	PAKSTRAN Documentary Screening	
11:45 – 1:30 pm	Debate Competition	
1:30 – 1:45 pm	Closing Remarks	Dr. Syed Murtaza Bokhari Project Director at Transport Planning Unit, Government. of the Punjab
2:00 pm	Refreshments	

Annex II

List of participants

Sr# Name	Designation	Organization
Government of Punjab		
1 Dr.Syed Murtaza Bokhari	Project Director	Transport Planning Unit, Government. of the Punjab
IUCN Pakistan		
2 Mr. Hasan Zaman	Communications Officer	IUCN
3 Mr. Qamber Zaidi	Awareness Campaign Media Consultant	IUCN
4 Ms Mehak Masood	Consultant Awareness Campaign	IUCN
FAST		
5 Ms Hajra Butt	Lecturer	FAST
6 Mr.Ahmed Qayyum	Lecturer	FAST
Debate Competition Participants	Students	FAST, LUMS, UVAS, PU
50 students of NUST (Audience)	Student	FAST

Annex III

Photographs from the event

