

Seminar

on

CHALLENGES OF URBANIZATION AND PLANNING IN CHINA AND INDIA

Hosted by



DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA

IN COOPERATION WITH

THE CHINESE REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION,
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Seminar Theme

Since the latter half of the twentieth century, contemporary urbanization, urban growth, planning and transformation have gained serious attention of the geographers, planners, economists, political scientists, social activists, environmentalists, and policy makers. These urban research themes influence decision making at various spatial and temporal levels of planning. Both India and China have urbanized rapidly in recent years and facing challenges of environmental problems, global warming and climate change. Conflicts arising due to urban and rural inequality, water scarcity and infrastructural imbalances are confronting the political institutions and policy makers.

Urban India is facing this daunting challenge. Since independence India is experiencing an accelerated rate of urbanization mainly through rural–urban migration. Overcrowding in rural areas, lack of employment opportunities have laid to problems like decreasing per capita income, disguised unemployment, poverty, and conflicts which are forcing the rural marginal people to urban centers in search of alternative means for livelihood. Hence, there is an emerging need for providing improved services to the inhabitants in both the rural and urban areas in such a way that ensures socio-political equity and sustainability.

Over a prolonged period of accelerated industrialization and urbanization, China is now facing an ecological disaster. The urban planners and thinkers are emphasizing more on the environmental quality rather than of economic development. The Chinese government has adopted new strategies of development to achieve modernization in the national governance and capacity building of the system, so that more equitable development can extend the benefit to all. Since the current pattern of urbanization is no longer suitable for the new socio-economic situation, both countries are looking for advanced technological means to overcome the negative externalities for a better environment, efficient, sustainable, and equitable urban development. In many ways problems facing to these two countries are similar. This seminar will offer a forum where some distinguished scholars in urban and social sciences in both countries can present their views and exchange mutually beneficial recommendations.

This seminar is being organized by

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