

The Bam That We All Want
Technical Consultation on Urban Redevelopment and Planning for the “New” City of Bam
Thursday 15 April 2004
Pars Hotel, Kerman

On 26 December 2003, a powerful earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale struck the historic city of Bam and its surrounding villages. It took the lives of some ~~45,000~~ 30,000 people and left over 25,000 injured and about 75,000 homeless. About 85 percent of the houses, commercial units, health and educational facilities and administrative buildings in the city and surrounding villages were either severely damaged or completely destroyed.

Under the UN Strategy for support to the Government of Iran following the Bam earthquake, the UN system, at the request of the Government, is working closely with local, provincial and national authorities, the affected communities, private sector and subject matter specialists to provide technical inputs that will feed into the design and the implementation of the Government’s reconstruction plan for Bam through a series of workshops and consultations entitled “The Bam That We All Want.” The Technical Consultation on Urban Redevelopment and Planning for the “New” City of Bam was held on 15 April in Kerman City under the auspices of the national Steering Committee for the Reconstruction of Bam and the UN System in Iran. Participants included high-level Government officials at the policy making levels and representatives from the provincial and local Governments, NGOs, civil society the UN, World Bank, the private sector and academia.

Given the extent of the damage in Bam, a substantive amount of planning and redevelopment will be required. The technical consultation on 15 April was intended to provide a platform for discussion of the physical, economic and social factors that will influence the reconstruction of Bam, its infrastructure and the surrounding villages. Specifically, the consultation dealt with:

- Urban planning and its implications on public policy (Session 1)
- Promotion of disaster risk reduction in urban redevelopment and planning (Session 2)
- “Creative Recovery” in the redevelopment and planning for the “new” city of Bam: Child-Friendly City, Healthy City, and “culture-friendly” concepts (Session 3)

A copy of the agenda is attached as Annex 1. The consultation provided an opportunity for the Government to share its proposed master plan for the “new” city of Bam with members of the private sector, NGO community and academia. It also provided the chance for the various stakeholders to come together and share their visions and ideas for the planning and redevelopment processes. Participants highlighted the need for community involvement and participation in the planning processes. The need to incorporate longer-term disaster-risk management principles in the planning and redevelopment processes was also strongly emphasized.

The consultation was opened by Mr. Mostafazadeh, [the Head of Kerman Province Cultural Heritage Organization](#), who spoke on behalf of the Kerman Governor-General. He noted that the Bam earthquake, while resulting in a disproportionate loss of lives, had been a wake up call for urban planners and designers in the country to rethink the management and development of other earthquake-prone cities in Iran in terms of disaster risk preparedness and mitigation.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Frederick Lyons, the UN Resident Coordinator ~~reiterated many of the points made by Mr. Mostafazadeh. He~~ pointed out that the unnecessary loss of lives and property in Bam, if seen from a risk management perspective, had shown the insufficient application and use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge for enhanced city planning and seismically safe construction. Given Iran's high vulnerability to earthquakes, it is vital that these issues are taken up on a wider platform throughout the country. Mr. Lyons also raised the issue of wider community participation and involvement in the planning processes. He noted that every individual in Bam has his or her dreams about the future of the city. The administration's commitment to dialogue will need to be maximised in the planning, consultation and implementation processes to reflect, as much as possible, the views, dreams and expectations of the affected population, and specifically, vulnerable groups such as the poor, women, children, the handicapped and the elderly. The reconstruction of Bam will be a massive challenge for the people of Iran. Nevertheless, it also offers the opportunity for creative thinking; the application of new ideas and concepts; large scale redevelopment; and the chance to create "The Bam That We All Want."

In his opening remarks, H.E. Dr. Pirooz Hanachi, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development provided a summary of the actions taken by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran's to accommodate and resettle the affected populations. He also gave a brief synopsis of the draft master plan for Bam city. He noted that the new city plan not only focuses on the physical aspects of the city, such as the location of qanats etc, but that it also takes the social, cultural and economic conditions of the population into account and builds on studies undertaken by academia, and international agencies such as UNESCO and the World Bank.

In the each of the three technical sessions that followed, select participants made presentations, and these were followed by open discussion. Below are some of the key points raised in sessions 1 and 2 on "urban planning and its implications on public policy" and the "promotion of disaster risk reduction in urban redevelopment and planning."

- While Iran has some of the best building codes in the world, these codes are often ignored. Appropriate arrangements need to be put in place to ensure enforcement of application of safety standards and building codes. The architects and engineers need to be made responsible for the safety of new buildings. Approved drawings of the newly constructed buildings in Bam city should be digitized and kept for posterity in government records.
- Much work has been done on seismic zonation of the country as a whole, and on micro-zonation of urban areas, such as Tehran. Yet this wide range of technical expertise and know-how has not translated into adequate action for disaster risk reduction. The Bam earthquake has highlighted the insufficient application and use of existing scientific and technical knowledge in Iran towards enhanced city planning, seismically safe construction and disaster risk reduction actions.
- Given the extremely high vulnerability of Iran to earthquakes, it is strongly recommended that detailed micro-zonation studies are conducted before an urban planning and/or redevelopment exercise is undertaken.
- More emphasis is required on disaster risk management, particularly in engineering schools, and especially among decision makers in key development sectors of disaster risk management issues. Appropriate techno-legal and techno-financial regimes for disaster risk management need to be put in place and enforced.

- Planning must be a top-down and bottom-up process. Development plans and town planning schemes should be prepared through public consultation, and should take into the consideration the views of the actual community members, both young and old, male and female, rich and poor. Involving communities, and particularly women, in the planning and reconstruction of housing (and in decisions about locations of health centers, schools, new markets etc) is important in creating appropriate facilities, ensuring access and more efficient utilization of public infrastructure.
- Given that tourism was one of the most important economic activities in Bam after agriculture, the redevelopment strategy for the city will require close coordination across sectors to ensure that the physical reconstruction of urban infrastructure is closely linked to the cultural preservation effort, and in turn, to the social and economic recovery of the area, and especially to livelihoods that were linked to heritage tourism.
- Urban redevelopment provides an opportunity for “creative recovery” in the efficient design and use of public spaces and services to address the special needs of women, children and other vulnerable groups such as the elderly and the handicapped. The “child-friendly” city concept emphasizes the health and wellbeing of children and their caregivers and stresses the creation of a healthy, safe and secure environments. Similarly, the “healthy-city” concept aims to improve the overall health and quality of life of the community by ensuring that citizens have access to essential services, education and health facilities, decent livelihoods, green spaces, recreation facilities and affordable housing.
- Reconstruction should not be about making an exact replica of the pre-earthquake city. The people of Bam want a Bam that is livable: a city that reflects their needs and aspirations: a modern, safe city, but one that also retains its heritage.

Following the workshop the High Council of Architecture and Urban Development approved that the microzonation study should be included in the TOR of the consultants, who prepare the Master Plan and Detail Plan in the country.

There are some consultations ongoing with the High Council of Architecture and Urban Development to study and adopt the Concept of Child Friendly City as a guideline for design of the new cities in Iran.

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ANNEX 1: AGENDA

Technical Consultation on Urban Redevelopment and Planning for the “New” City of Bam Thursday 15 April Pars Hotel, Kerman Islamic Republic of Iran

Inaugural Session

- 08:30-08:50** **Welcome (Moderator: Mr. Davood Daneshian, Director-General of High Council For Urban Planning and Architecture)**
- 08:50-09:10** **Opening by the Governor General of Kerman (H.E. Mr. Karimi)**
- 09:10-09:30** **Introduction by Mr. Frederick Lyons, United Nations Resident Coordinator-Iran**
- 09:30-09:45** **Tea Break**

Session 1: Urban planning and its implications on public policy Moderator: Governor-General of Kerman (H.E. Mr. Karimi)

Areas to be covered in Session 1: An overview of the earthquake damage in the Bam area and its adjoining environs; its impacts on land use; short- and long-term planning and public policy implications. The needs of women and vulnerable groups and the demands and expectations of the affected communities, as a whole, of the urban redevelopment and planning processes.

- 09:50-10:10** Policies and resources for urban planning and redevelopment for Bam city
(H.E. Dr. Pirooz Hanachi, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development)
- 10:10-10:30** The unique cultural, social, and physical features of Bam and their implications for the redevelopment and planning processes
(H.E. Mr. Karimi, the Governor General of Kerman)
- 10:30-10:50** The Government of Iran’s proposed master plan for Bam
(Mr. Behzadfar, Representative from the engineering consultancy firm preparing the Bam reconstruction plan)

- 10:50-11:10** Bam as a world cultural heritage centre
(Dr. Beheshti, President of the Iran Cultural Heritage Organization)
- 11:10-11:30** Survey of people's expectations of the urban redevelopment and planning processes
(Dr. Esmaili, Head, Bam City Council)
- 11:30-12:00** Women's participation in, and expectations of, the urban redevelopment and planning process for Bam
(Ms. Atarinedjad, Advisor to the Governor-General of Kerman for Women's Affairs)
- 12:00-13:00** **Panel Discussion**
- 13:00-14:00** **Lunch**

Session 2: Promotion of Disaster Risk Reduction in Urban Redevelopment and Planning

Moderator: H.E. Dr. Pirooz Hanachi, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

Areas to be covered in Session 2: Integrating disaster management with long-term development policies; legal mechanisms for creating a disaster-proof living zone, local plans and ordinances, and lessons learned from past experiences in urban redevelopment and planning

- 14:00-14:20** The plans the for reconstruction of Bam based on disaster risk reduction criteria
(Dr. Fadaiee, Deputy of Governor General for Development Affairs)
- 14:20-14:50** Risk analysis and assessment for Bam
(Mr. Hosseini, International Institute for Earthquake Engineering and Seismology)
- 14:50-15:20** The integration of disaster risk reduction initiatives in urban planning objectives
(Ms. Salehi, Tehran Disaster Management Center)
- 15:20-15:40** **Tea Break**

Session 3: "Creative Recovery" in the redevelopment and planning for the "new" city of Bam

Moderator: (Ms. Junko Taniguchi, UNESCO Programme Specialist)

Areas to be covered in Session 3: The role of the affected communities in the recovery and rebuilding process; promotion of concepts such as Child Friendly City, Healthy City and cultural heritage; implementation mechanisms and partnership development

- 15:40-16:00** "City Council Helpers" in Bam: a participatory approach to planning and decision making for urban redevelopment and urban planning
(Professor Siamak Zand Razavi, Sociologist, Kerman University)
- 16:00-16:15** "Child Friendly City" concept
(Professor Selim Isthmus, UNICEF Child Friendly Cities Specialist)
- 16:15-16:30** Protection and preservation of Bam's unique cultural heritage
(Ms. Junko Taniguchi, UNESCO Programme Specialist & Mr. Mohammed Hassan Talebian,

Temporary Director, ICHO-Bam)

16:30-16:45 “Healthy City” concept
(Dr. Jose Luis Zeballos, WHO Consultant)

16:45-17:30 **Panel Discussion**

17:30-18:00 **Wrap-up**