



Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology
PLAN 402: Project Planning Studio

A Concept Note on
**“Sustainable Development Goal Localization to Strengthen Cities
through Innovative Technology Integration for Urban
Sustainability”**

Level-4 Term-2

Department of Urban & Regional Planning, BUET

Submitted by:

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Concept Note and Draft Programme

Planning Day 2023

8th November 2023 from 9.00am-5.30pm

Organized in person at the Council Building, BUET, Dhaka, Bangladesh

“Sustainable Development Goal Localization to Strengthen Cities through Innovative Technology Integration for Urban Sustainability”

Background Information

The World Town Planning Day, celebrated on November 8 each year, was established by Argentine urban planner, Carlos Maria Della Paolera in 1950 as a means of acknowledging and advancing the role that planning plays in developing liveable communities. The day is an occasion for discussing contemporary planning concerns with professionals in the field of urban planning. Young aspiring undergraduates and recent graduates can collaborate with graduates in the discipline of urban planning, providing an excellent opportunity for them to expand their expertise.

For this year's World Town Planning Day, the Department of Urban & Regional Planning (URP), Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET) in association with the Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) are organizing an event to celebrate the day. The day will feature a diverse range of activities designed to engage participants and foster insightful discussions.

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning, BUET, has hosted planning days and planning weeks over the years. Each year, the organizers decide upon a theme for the day based on issues of concern to town planning. In the year 2018, a planning day was organized with a specific theme: “Let's Plan for a Better City.” The day-long activities covered discussions between experts, presentations, and an urban, meticulous battle quiz competition. Presentations centred around the topics of waterlogging and Ramna Park. Students from the then batches organized Planning Week in 2019 with the tagline “Plan, Inspire, and Dream.” The MRT Project in Dhaka was the major focus of the planning event that year, and there were Q and A sessions with specialists from DMTCL, DTCA and the participants. The most recent Planning Week was held in February 2023, with the theme "Spatial Planning for the Future." The weeklong events included an inauguration ceremony, journal publishing, a case and quiz

competition, and a closing seminar concentrating on "Amar Gram, Amar Sohor," during which experts and participants explored regional planning challenges in Bangladesh. Innovation and technology are a matter of concern in all respective fields of the modern world. Individuals are becoming increasingly passionate about innovation and technology. It is imperative that such a crucial aspect is also considered in the field of urban planning as well. Because the importance of technology was not highlighted in the previous year's planning day themes, it is a good opportunity to explore a theme emphasizing innovation and technology this year. So, the theme for this year's Planning Day is: "Innovative Technology Integration for Urban Sustainability." It will encourage us to explore and plan for a future where technology plays a leading role in making urban environments more sustainable, resilient, and liveable as one key instrument in the acceleration of SDGs in the developing diverse municipalities.

Rationale Behind the Thematic Focus

Housing, transportation, and infrastructure are all under increased pressure because of rapid urbanization. Poor solid waste management, inadequate maintenance of wastewater infrastructures and water facilities contribute to urban flooding and overwhelm the resilience of cities. Besides, cities have a major impact on environmental problems such as greenhouse gas emissions, and contamination of the air and water. Because of climate change, cities are experiencing extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and changing weather patterns. These vulnerabilities will continue to put pressure on the environment and challenge cities' and countries' capacities to meet climate and SDG targets, particularly SDG 11. "Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable." Building resilience and adapting infrastructure to withstand these changes is crucial for sustainable development. The transformation to smarter sustainable cities will require innovation in planning, management, and operations. Developed cities are therefore increasingly looking to information and communications technology and new working practices and ideas. This integration of innovation and technology would help to reduce the environmental impact of urban areas by improving efficiencies in energy, water, and transportation, minimizing waste, and delivering the quality-of-life citizens expect while balancing resource distribution. Technology and innovation also aid in developing urban resilience against climate change, natural disasters, and resource constraints by adapting, recovering, and maintaining essential services during crises. The theme Innovative Technology Integration for Urban Sustainability will be the bridge to achieving the SDG targets relating to planning problems.

Objectives of the Planning Day Event

1. To explore innovative technologies and ideas that have potential to transform urban planning.
2. To provide a collaborative platform for experts, researchers, practitioners to share their opinions and thoughts.

Expected Outputs and Benefits

Developing in depth understanding on how to bridge urban planning with innovation and technology by exchanging knowledge and ideas in collaboration with experts and participants.

The students of the current batches will be able to strengthen their bond and enhance their event organizing skills through effective communication and develop their abilities in organizing events by carefully considering the risks and constraints involved in such planning events.

Displaying cutting-edge technologies, tools, and ideas for solving urban problems that can be adapted by policymakers and experts for sustainable urban growth. Sponsors can incorporate or utilize these technologies and ideas into their respective companies.

An occasion for sponsors to be recognized and promoted to a wide range of audience. Every year, on the occasion of planning day, a booklet is published with the sponsor bands featured on the front page. They will also get access to unique networking opportunities with decision-makers, experts, and possible public-private partners.

Interaction with students and young professionals to provide chances for talent acquisition and internships.

Participants

A breakdown of proposed participant organizations and beneficiaries are presented below:

1. Undergraduate Students of URP department, professional urban planners
2. Local government officials and professionals (Rajuk, LGED, UDD, HBRI)
3. Consultancy firms aligned with the moral obligations of planning practices (Waste concern, SMEC)
4. Technology Providers
5. Educational Institutions (BUET, RUET, KUET, CUET, Khulna University, Jahangirnagar University, Pabna University of Science and Technology)

6. Researchers, Entrepreneurs, Tech Enthusiasts
7. Community Stakeholders (Urban residents, Political Leader)

Draft Program Activities

Time	Activities
9.00 am to 9.30 am	Registration and Networking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Arrival of participants and guests, registration and networking over refreshments
9.30 am to 10.15 am	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A brief introduction to the theme of this planning day – Overview of the importance of tech integration for urban sustainability
10.15 am to 11.30 am	Keynote Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Prominent specialists and experts offer insights on innovative ideas and technologies for the development of sustainable urban cities – Q and A session
11.30 am to 12.30 pm	Tech Showcase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Presentation of case competition featuring demonstrations of urban solutions by incorporating innovative ideas and technologies – Exhibition of Journal Papers and Class Project works from the BURP, BUET.
12.30 pm to 1.30 pm	Lunch Break
1.30 pm to 3.30 pm	Workshops <p>Workshop 1: "Smart Infrastructure for Sustainable Cities"</p> <p>Workshop 2: "Data-driven Decision Making in Urban Planning"</p> <p>Workshop 3: "Innovations in Urban Mobility Solutions for the Future"</p> <p>Workshop 4: "Community engagement through Digital Platforms"</p>
3.30 pm to 4.00 pm	Coffee break
4.00 pm to 5.00 pm	Panel Discussion

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Result Publication of case competition – Discussion of challenges, opportunities for the integration of innovative ideas and technologies in urban sustainability from the judge panels – Audience Q&A session
5.00 pm to 5.30 pm	Closing Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Summary of the session – Acknowledgement of sponsors

Estimated Budget

	Amount in Taka
Catering services (Coffee, Lunch)	50,000
Prize money of the case competition	Winner- 30,000 1 st Runner up - 20,000 2 nd Runner up – 15,000
Stationeries (Note pad, pen), prospects of the event	15,000
Advertising Items (Banners, posters, T-shirts)	50,000
Decoration of stages	5,000
Speakers and Experts Fees (If Applicable)	-
Any unexpected occurrences	5,000