

## **Module 1: Introduction and the Context**

# **Concepts of Urban Planning**

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# Introduction to Planning

- American perspective
- Observations from Chinese experience
- Your role in planning
- Value of Planning
- Popular planning concepts
- How to use planners
- Managing your city

# **Introduction to Planning (Cont'd)**

- **This course is designed to help you make better decisions about the future of your city**
- **NOT a course to make you a professional planner.**
- **Provide a general view and understanding that will make the rest of the course useful and interesting.**
- **First Parts are the basic core about the use of planning and planners in shaping the city and the region.**
- **Other modules go into more detail about specific aspects and issues in planning-- build on the basic core of understanding in this course.**

# Goals for Urban Planning:

- Reduce poverty and improve quality of life for the most people.
- Distribute both positive and negative aspects of development fairly.
- Environmental conservation
- Cultural and historic preservation
- Provide a predictable process for decision making that is informed by these goals.

# Planning in America



- Truly Comprehensive: economics, environment and social values
- Citizen participation
- Many approaches
- Long term perspective
- Enforcement of Plans
- Planners represent public

# **Aspects of Planning that Officials Need to Know**

## **Vision Process**

- This includes strategic positioning, analysis of the major issues, regional, social and economic elements as well as public participation.
- Follow through with the vision by developing a detailed plan: This can be described as a matrix of who is responsible for each goal in the vision.
- Implementation; administrative, incentives and regulatory structure to carry out the plan
- Review and revision: the vision and the plan should be done in terms that make it clear how progress and achievements will be measured, and how modifications are made

# **Comparing China and US (1)**

- **In transition from the earlier planned economy to a market based system.**
- **Central government established regional and city statistical goals -- the Planning Commission, needs to have a new role working with the planning bureau**
- **Planning Bureaus were charged w/ implementation of the goals in these economic development targets.**
- **Role in the area of project construction than US comprehensive city planning.**

# **Comparing China and US (2)**

- **Demands of urbanization and market economy require changes to the planning system.**
- **How the planning system in China may meet these two goals involves new local systems**
- **You must decide the way you will compete with other cities**
- **This course offers choices about the way you want to approach your city's overall development strategy: less influenced by central government targets and more influenced by economic competition.**



# **Planning Practice – Past US Weaknesses (1)**

- **Preparation of master plans to layout a perfect final end-state for the city**  
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- **Issues of economic efficiency or social equity**  
**The importance of the process of planning was neglected in favor of planning by a few government departments, with stakeholders often limited to developers**  
https://fb.com/tailieudientucvt
- **City governments didn't took these plans seriously**

# Planning Practice – Past US Weaknesses (2)

- Implementation was mainly for infrastructure projects, planned by engineers, uncoordinated with other services and needs.
- *A misunderstanding of the function and role of urban planning now shared by many developing countries and government agencies.*
- Citizen participation in planning was neglected until very recently.

# Your Role in Planning

- Represent the public interest
- Look at the different opportunities for the city
- Balance among competing interests
- Manage development



# **Development Forces Demand Good Planning (1)**

- ***Speed of urbanization and size of cities.***
- ***Social inequality.*** The large number of urban poor requires special attention.
- ***Realizing cities' economic potential by overcoming weaknesses:***
  - i) lack of vision, ii) inadequate consultation among stakeholders

# **Development Forces Demand Good Planning (2)**

- *Environmental degradation*
- *Weak Sense of Direction, Institutional Linkages and Coordination.*
- *New and emerging challenges*
  - i) decentralization, ii) proliferation of interest groups, iii) globalization, iv) information and communication, v) demand for local control, vi) citizens' concerns and vii) new challenges in public health and safety

# Value of Planning



- Understand that choices have long-term economic consequences
- Improve conditions for people's lives
- Manage scarce resources

# Short Term Planning Fads

- **Bad ideas from elsewhere are not good ideas in China**  
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- **CBD, Wide Streets Skyscrapers, Plazas**
- **Architecture alone does not make a city**
- **Design competitions are not good for planning**
- **Learn from mistakes of other countries**

# Planning Concepts

- Garden City                      New Urbanism
- Planning with nature        Developing a Vision
- Historic Preservation as a planning strategy
- Reinventing Chinese city planning tradition





# How to use planners



- Facilitation of ideas and interests
- Analyze possible strategies
- Present alternatives for different options
- Manage the implementation of an overall vision

# Managing your city



- This program gives you a background on planning
- Use the knowledge contained here to use the professional services available to you from the World Bank, APA and others

# Conclusion

- **Planning is not just the layout of buildings**
- **Planning should involve people in the process not like design competitions**
- **Plans are useless without a commitment to law and the implementation of the plan**  
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- **Planning should be comprehensive: economic, social, environmental, design**