

Appendix 2. The CDB Workshops

Participatory Workshop 13-14 September 1999, Manila

Fifteen representatives from 14 cities participated in the Participatory Workshop on 13-14 September 1999. The cities were: Bangkok, Bangalore, Bishkek, Cebu, Colombo, Hanoi, Hong Kong, Kathmandu, Mandaluyong, Medan, Naga, Phnom Penh, Suva, and Ulaanbaatar. The workshop was the initiating activity for work on the Cities Data Book (CDB). Its objectives were to

- develop a consensus on which urban data are most useful for policy setting and evaluation by local governments;
- establish key indicators for monitoring and evaluating cities in the region; and
- establish a network of cities that can communicate experiences and transfer good practices in urban services, policy development, and data management.

To generate consensus among cities, criteria in selecting indicators were put forward. It was agreed that the exercise will highlight the promotion of cities which are human, sustainable, innovative, efficient, participatory, and effectively managed. The criteria chosen were driven by objectives of

- improving linkages between central and local governments and the private sector;
- improving the management of resources;
- supporting the development of long-term urban sector strategies and plans;
- reducing levels of urban poverty; and
- promoting sound governance.

Under the above guidelines the participants identified and prioritized the sectors.

- From a long list of themes or sectors in the city participants selected the six priority sectors of environmental management, water supply, municipal services, governance, solid waste management, and economy.
- For indicators, the sectors on environmental management and municipal services were merged with solid waste and water supply, respectively. The groups gave most votes to the indicators of

(i) environmental management including degree of pollution and diseases caused by pollution;

(ii) municipal services including connections or collection as for solid waste, expenditures on operations and maintenance, loss or unaccounted for services, consumption per capita, cost to connect, wastewater treated, types of services, modes of travel, and travel time;

(iii) governance including delivery of annual plan, business satisfaction survey, representation of minorities, compliance to regulations, access to information, voter turnout, consumer satisfaction services, and processing and approval time; and

(iv) economy including investment for basic services, employment rate, economic growth, households below the poverty line, cities' land structure, competitiveness as measured by skilled education composition, and tourism.

Indicators selected would be considered in a questionnaire for data collection. Cities will adopt standard definitions of terms

to compare cities' performances. As measures of city performance the indicators should be important, simple, easy to collect, accurate, affordable, available, useful, and sustainable.

The CDB team briefed the cities on the indicative timetable of the exercise. Six months after the workshop the consultants in each city were expected to be in place, and to have completed a draft of the survey results or draft values, a city profile, and documented the sources of the data. The participants noted that the CDB is not a mere collection of statistics. Goals and priorities should be established and the indicators to be used and later maintained should be policy oriented or performance-based.

Dissemination Workshop 15-16 February 2001, Manila

A dissemination workshop was held at ADB headquarters in Manila on 15-16 February 2001 to discuss the major findings of the Cities Data Book: Urban Indicators for Managing Cities. The workshop recapped the regional technical assistance funded by ADB to initiate an urban indicators system to provide useful, timely, and relevant information on urban conditions and trends in Asian and Pacific cities and to establish a network among the cities to exchange good practices. Participating cities included Bangalore, Bishkek, Cebu, Colombo, Dhaka, Hanoi, Hohhot, Kathmandu, Hong Kong, Lahore, Mandaluyong, Medan, Melbourne Naga, Phnom Penh, Seoul, Suva and Ulaanbaatar. Among those present were mayors, city administrators, and senior technical staff from the participating cities and statistics offices, representatives from international development agencies including the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme's Urban Management Programme for Asia and Pacific, Japan Bank for International Cooperation, academic research institutions, and NGOs.

Sir Peter Hall of the University College London, Dr. Peter Newton of the Commonwealth Science Research Organization of Australia, Dr. Terrence McGee of the University of British Columbia, Canada, and Dr. Joe Flood and Mr. Giles Clarke, consultants to the Cities Data Book, comprehensively discussed the development of indicators, adoption of an indicators system in the national policy context, and the use of policy-based indicators at the city level. The resource persons analyzed the cities' development based on data generated by the Cities Data Book exercise and illustrated comparative performance of cities on selected aspects. The mayors and other city representatives likewise shared their cities' experiences in developing a local information system and showed how indicators influenced their local decision making.

Key conclusions and recommendations reached during the workshop were as follows:

- The comparison of cities in the CDB should not be viewed as criticism of the city but rather a challenge to the city to continue to strive to improve performance.
- There was a clear justification for using the urban indicators.
- Parallel work in the application of indicators in city management needed to be pursued and discussed with the stakeholders.

- Ownership of the CDB should be at the city level. At the initial stages of its development, local ownership is more important than quality data.
- Data generated in the CDB exercise should be popularized or packaged from the perspective of stakeholders such as investors and the business community, to promote its wide use.
- Cities need to link urban indicators data to city goals and priorities, and continually refine the process as priorities change over time.
- An information network among cities would promote exchange and sharing of information.