

ASIAN CITIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Contemporary
Approaches to
Municipal Management

Volume V
Fighting Urban Poverty

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Fighting Urban Poverty

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Edited by

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FOREWORD

In recent years, most governments in Asia have undergone a dramatic change in their functioning by devolving certain responsibilities for delivery of public services to local governments. However, this demands the right mix of skills and experience of local leaders for them to manage effectively their new responsibilities.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has identified improvement in management and public service delivery at the municipal level as a priority area in its governance agenda and, since 1997, together with the ADB Institute, has been organizing workshops aimed at creating awareness of recent developments in public-sector management at the local government level. Participants share experiences of successes in reforming municipalities and in motivating citizens and municipal managers to embrace change.

Three workshops were held between October 1997 and March 1998. Two were organized under an ADB regional technical assistance on governance and development, which facilitated citizens' initiatives to promote municipal government reforms in Lahore, Pakistan, and Dhaka, Bangladesh, respectively. The third was the ADB Institute-sponsored Municipal Management Forum in Tokyo, Japan.

The proceedings of these three workshops were published in 1999 as Volumes I-III in this series, *Asian Cities in the 21st Century: Contemporary Approaches to Municipal Management*.

Subsequently, the ADB Institute and ADB initiated a series of Asian Mayors' Forums to enable

Asian mayors and city leaders to discuss governance issues at the local government level, share experiences in urban change, identify crucial municipal issues, and establish linkages and networks. The forums help mayors and city leaders keep abreast of new developmental issues affecting Asian cities and identify reforms that they could pursue in the delivery of municipal services to enhance the quality of life of their citizens.

There have been three Asian Mayors' Forums to date. The first was held in Cebu, Philippines, in December 1998, cosponsored by ADB, the ADB Institute, and the City Government of Cebu. The second, the proceedings of which were published as Volume IV in the *Asian Cities in the 21st Century* series, was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in June 1999, and was cosponsored by ADB, ADB Institute, Colombo Plan Secretariat, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Regional Urban Development Office for South Asia, US-Asia Environmental Partnership Program, Urban Management Programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), Konrad Adenauer Foundation, German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), and the Colombo Municipal Council. That volume contains the experiences of municipal leaders and representatives of development agencies in improving governance and delivery of municipal services, particularly through partnerships with the private sector and nongovernment organizations (NGOs).

The present volume contains the proceedings of the third Asian Mayors' Forum, which focused on the theme *Fighting Urban Poverty* and was held in Shanghai, People's Republic of China, on 26-29 June 2000. It was attended by 109 participants, including mayors, city administrators, local government officials, NGOs, and private-sector representatives from 16 countries, and bilateral and multilateral aid

agencies, including the UNDP/UNCHS Urban Management Programme, The Urban Governance Initiative of UNDP, the USAID Regional Urban Development Office for South Asia, the US-Asia Environmental Partnership Program, and of course, the ADB Institute and ADB. Other international organizations such as the Institute of Housing and Urban Development Studies, Rotterdam, and CityNet were also represented.

The individual contributions in this volume have been condensed and substantially edited from the participants' original presentations in view of publication constraints.

We are grateful for the invaluable contributions of the participants and resource persons at this Forum. S.B. Chua coordinated the Forum. Michiko Yoshida assisted in its organization. The Shanghai Municipal Government Team, headed by the Honorable Mayor Xu Kuangdi, hosted the Forum and ensured that all the participants received the best hospitality. Shipra Narang prepared the introductory section for each chapter. Jay Maclean provided editing services and Ramiro Cabrera did the cover design.

We trust that this series will make a positive contribution to the literature on municipal management. Further, we hope it will prove to be a useful resource for city managers in their efforts to improve the quality of life of their citizens and thus promote the development of responsive and effective local government.

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