



Urban Knowledge Hub : ITN-BUET Bangladesh National Center

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South Asia Urban Knowledge Hub (K-Hub)

- **An initiative of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Governments of Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.**
- **The initiative is also being supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).**

Basis of ADB's K-Hub Initiative

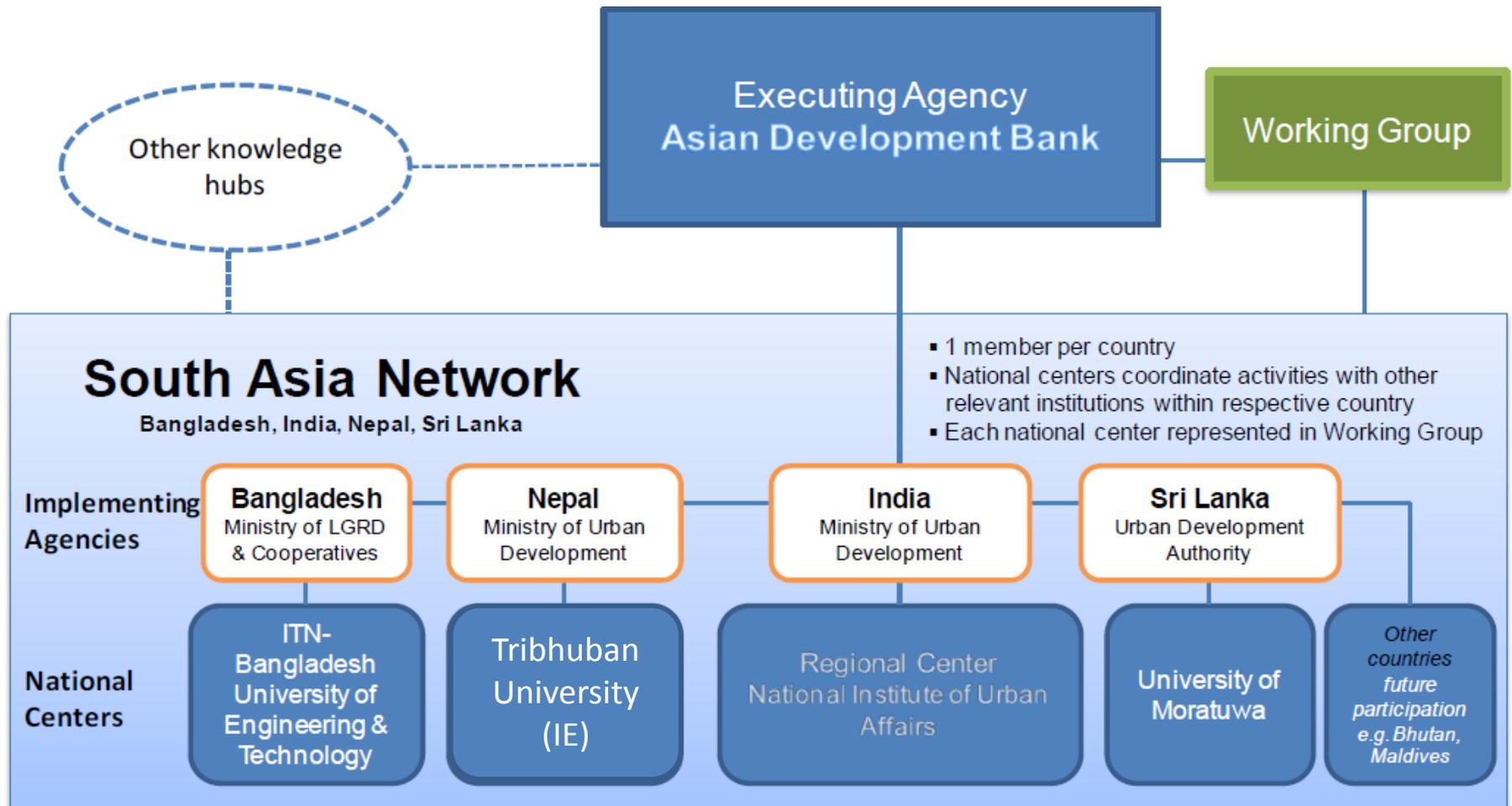
- Country **partnership strategies** with a strong emphasis on *knowledge management and networking, result oriented solutions, and regional cooperation*
- Solutions for the complex urban environments require bold **actions guided by knowledge**

The ADB initiative therefore aims to **strengthen the capacity of urban research and training institutions** in South Asia and **develop a regional network for creating and sharing urban sector knowledge (Knowledge partnership)**

Overall Objectives of K-Hub

- To build a network of training and research institutions within the region and beyond;
- To develop a forum for generating and applying knowledge for urban management;
- To facilitate sharing of best practices in urban management; and
- To develop capacity for outcome oriented research.

K-Hub Institutional Framework



Bangladesh National Centre for K-HUB

- Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives (LGRD&C) nominated **ITN-BUET** as the National Centre for K-Hub
- Project Period: April 2014 to December 2016.
- Team:
 - Team Leader/ National Coordinator
 - Urban Specialist
 - Infrastructure Specialist
 - Environmental Specialist
 - Urban Planning Specialist

K-Hub Work Plan for ITN-BUET: Bangladesh National Center

Background

- Phenomenal growth of urban population from 6.27 million (8.87%) in 1974 to about 48.0 million (30%) in 2013
- Rapid urban growth in last 4 decades due to
 - Rural to urban migration (most dominant)
 - Territorial extension of existing urban areas
- Urbanization is non-uniform Dhaka alone has about 40% of total urban population.
- Impacts of rapid urbanization include:
 - Positive influence on economic growth (30% urbanization contributes to more than 60% of the GDP)
 - Rapid urbanization results in expansion of urban areas at the cost of agricultural lands, forest areas, filling of wetlands
 - Tremendous pressure on urban utilities
 - Degradation of the urban environment, air, water, soil pollution turned critical

Background (Contd.)

- Urban environmental pollution is taking a serious turn threatening sustainable urban living
 - Lack of proper management of urban sanitation systems is a critical contributing factor among others.
 - Huge quantities of fecal sludge (FS) generated in septic tanks and pits are **inaptly** managed.
 - Disposal of fecal sludge in low-lying areas and in lakes, canals and rivers is common that cause serious pollution and threatens public health.

Background (contd.)

- People in slums and low-income communities suffer from a range of serious and challenging problems, including polluted water, sanitation, drainage/water logging, energy (including fuel wood), fire hazard, indoor air pollution, transportation, etc.
- Absence of an “integrated development approach” to address the diverse problems of slum dwellers, the most vulnerable section of urban community, is a major challenge in achieving inclusive urban development.

Goal

Inclusive, safe and sustainable urban living by improving the overall environment through implementing appropriate FSM services, and improving living conditions in urban slums and low-income communities, through knowledge based integrated development.

In order to achieve this “goal”, ITN-BUET plans to focus on two major issues during the K-Hub project period:

- (a) improvement of overall urban environment through promoting fecal sludge management (FSM), and
- (b) improvement of living conditions of people in urban slums and low-income communities by promoting “integrated development approach”.

Objective 1: To create an enabling environment for sustainable implementation of fecal sludge management (FSM) services in urban areas of Bangladesh.

Activities:

- Perform case study for assessing FSM scenarios in urban areas
- Create awareness about FSM among relevant stakeholders
- Develop a regulatory framework for FSM
- Identify suitable treatment option/ technologies for FSM
- Develop business models for sustainable FSM services
- Develop implementation plan for FSM projects in selected areas
- Establish twinning partnerships between local utility service providers and similar regional institutions

Objective 2: To support government and non government organizations to opt for an integrated development approach encompassing different vulnerability concerns and challenges like degraded environment and housing; access to basic services like water, sanitation, energy and transportation; drainage and SWM, natural disasters and fire hazard; and safety

Activities:

- Review and identify gaps within existing development approaches and plans for urban slums
- Perform case study in selected slums and low-income communities to identify the challenges and vulnerabilities
- Formulate an integrated development approach for urban slums and low-income communities
- Sharing the findings and finalizing the “development approach”

Objective 3: Promote capacity of fresh graduates in urban planning and management through bringing about appropriate changes in course curricula on urban planning and sanitation in selected, relevant academic institutions in the country

Activities:

- Review overall urban development trend of selected cities/towns of partner countries and identify comparable urban development trends in Bangladesh
- Share the knowledge and experience, achieved from different action research and urban development projects in order to enhance perspectives in improving course curricula on urban planning and sanitation
- Recommend updated and improved course curricula on urban planning and sanitation for Bangladesh

Products

- Three knowledge products (KPs) and 3 associated policy briefs:
 - Regulatory framework for FSM
 - Business model for implementation of FSM services
 - Formulation of an “Integrated development approach” for slums and low income communities
- Two case studies/ research outcomes
 - existing FSM scenarios in urban areas in Bangladesh
 - existing challenges/vulnerabilities in slums
- Webpage, Newsletter for information sharing

Expected Major Impacts of the Project

By 2021, the initiatives of ITN-BUET under the South Asia Urban Knowledge Hub are expected to bring about most of the following impacts:

- Significant reduction in pollution of urban environment by improved FSM through development and facilitating implementation of a regulatory framework and sustainable treatment technology and business model for FSM.
- Substantial improvement in living conditions within urban slums and low income communities through integrating development of different sectors.

Thank You

(Comments, Suggestions & Queries
will be highly appreciated)

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