

PREFACE

This is the fourth major publication of the Asian urban Information Center of Kobe. The original plan adopted which the Center was formed in 1989 was to conduct a broad survey of Asian urban administrators every two years, to learn from them what they considered to be their most urgent problems. The idea was to permit the front line administrators, those who had to deal with the problems of urbanization on a day to day basis, to tell us what they found to be their problems and how they were addressing those problems. Two of those surveys have now been published. The first covered 1990-91 and was published in 1991. The second was done in 1993 and published at the end of 1993.

On years when the survey was not to be done, the plan called for in-depth studies of a smaller number of cities to learn about their problems and how the city administrators were addressing those problems. In 1991-2 comparative studies of two port cities in five countries were carried out. The countries and their cities included China: Tianjin and Lianlungang; India: Bombay and Calcutta; Indonesia: Surabaya and Padang; Japan: Kobe and Niigata; and Republic of Korea: Pusan and Mokpo. Cities were selected generally to represent larger faster growing port cities and smaller, slower growing cities. This would permit us to learn something about the causes and consequences of rapid urban growth. The results of that study were published in 1992.

The current report is the second of the in-depth studies of a smaller number of cities. Eight cities are included: Changchun City, China; Bombay, India; Surabaya, Indonesia; Kobe, Japan; Pusan, Korea; Hyderabad, Pakistan; Cebu City, The Philippines; and Nakhon Sawan, Thailand. For this study a more journalistic approach was adopted. The plan called for a series of in-depth interviews with city administrators and local leaders to learn what were the major problems. Then the researchers would choose two to four major projects and provide a description of how the projects were planned and carried out, and what were the causes of both successes and failures encountered. In the process, the researchers were also to focus some attention on population dynamics, the status of women, and indicators of the quality of life. In all cases, the plan was to have the city administrators and leaders tell us themselves how they viewed these issues, and what, for example, they would consider valid indicators of such things as life quality and women's status.

This report is based on eight individual city reports. They are listed on the following page with the institutional location of the senior author. Resources did not permit their full publication in this round, but copies of the original unedited reports will be provided to any who request them. Please send requests to

The Asian Urban Information Center
6th Floor Edo-machi SK Building
92, Edo-machi, Chuo-ku
Kobe 650, Japan
FAX 81 78 334 1683