

Arab Urban Development Institute
AUDI

WHAT IS AUDI ?

- Founded in 1980 with permanent headquarters in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- Regional, non-governmental, non-profit research, technical and consulting organization.
- Serves as the technical and scientific arm of the **Arab Towns Organization (ATO)** based in Kuwait, that has a membership of about 400 Arab cities and municipalities representing 22 Arab states.
- AUDI's Board of trustees includes 14 Arab mayors
- Major sources of funding: contributions from the Saudi Government, ATO, some Arab cities, and limited contributions from some donors for specific activities.

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AUDI REGIONAL CDS FACILITY

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CURRENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President

- Rotating Members
 - Al-Doha, Qatar
 - Amman, Jordan
 - Cairo, Egypt
 - Damascus, Syria
 - Dubai, UAE
 - Jeddah, KSA
 - Kuwait, Kuwait
 - Muscat, Oman
 - Rabat, Morocco
 - Tunis, Tunisia
- Permanent Members
 - ATO Director General
 - AUDI Director General
 - Makka, KSA
 - Madina, KSA
 - Jerusalem, Palestine
 - Riyadh, KSA

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OBJECTIVES

- Enhance the efficiency and build the capacity of Arab cities in planning for urban growth and development.
- Identify the key problems confronting Arab cities, conduct research and propose policy guidelines.
- Organize conferences, symposia and workshops to address relevant issues and problems.
- Foster collaboration among Arab cities on pertinent issues.
- Facilitate the transfer of knowledge and successful experiences from international development organizations to Arab cities.
- Help preserve the character and identity of Arab cities .

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SOME CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Implementation of the MENA Child Protection Initiative (CPI) that aims to upgrade the capacities of local authorities to become more effective in improving the well being of children, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged ones, through:
 - establishment of a knowledge hub;
 - municipal capacity building;
 - resource mobilization and establishment of a flexible funding mechanism. (www.menacpi.org)
- Launching the "e-Municipalities" project intended to assist Arab cities - through training and technical backstopping - become more efficient, transparent and responsive to their citizens' needs and requirements.

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ON-GOING COLLABORATIONS

- Collaboration with the **World Bank** on the Child Protection Initiative, City Development Strategies (in Aden, Alexandria and Amman), knowledge management, decentralization, privatization of municipal services in Arab cities, and others.
- Collaboration with **UNFPA** on population and development issues.
- Collaboration with **UN-HABITAT** to assist in establishing local and national Urban Observatories in selected Arab cities.
- Collaboration with **UNICEF** on children-related issues.
- Collaboration with **UNDP** on sustainable development, poverty alleviation and urban indicators in Arab cities.

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PUBLICATIONS & LIBRARY

- AUDI aspires to become the prime information center for Arab cities, with updated comprehensive databases on Arab cities.
- More than **45** books covering various aspects of urban development issues have been published by AUDI and disseminated to relevant organizations.
- AUDI possesses a vast collection of books, periodicals and monographs related to urban development in Arab cities and worldwide.



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SOME CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Implementation of a regional project "Population Dynamics and Poverty Reduction in Arab Cities", funded by UNFPA.
Main components:
 1. Knowledge management.
 2. Capacity building.
 3. Advocacy.

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CDS FACILITY OBJECTIVES

- Serve as a regional center for CDS related knowledge management serving MENA cities, professionals, and research institutions.
- Build the capacities of MENA cities and professionals in CDS related activities.
- Assist MENA cities to prepare CDSs financed either entirely from national/local resources, or partially through external grants and/or loans.
- Assist MENA cities in identifying and recruiting regional or international consultants.



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CDSs IN MENA REGION

The Cities Alliance, the World Bank, and their development partners, have been engaged in CDS activities in about 100 cities worldwide.

However, the MENA region's share among these cities is only 6 cities have joined, and benefited from, the Cities Alliance so far: Aden, Alexandria, Amman, Houdida, Mukalla, Sanaia, Irbid, Zirqa, Altafila, etc.

Hence, a regional CDS facility has been established within AUDI to assist more MENA cities in preparing CDSs.

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PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

4. Assist interested and committed cities in initiating and preparing CDSs - viz. assistance in filling out CDS grant applications, recruiting consultants, setting up teams, devising a sound CDS preparation timetable, guidelines for implementation of CDS components, identification of development partners, etc.
5. Document the lessons learned from each CDS, and share them within the region and internationally in order to inform the preparation of new CDSs.
6. Establish a bi-annual regional award that recognizes excellence in CDS preparation and implementation, as one of the ATO awards for innovations in urban development and management.



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PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

1. Build a knowledge base on urban development issues relevant to the region.
2. Enhance knowledge sharing and connectivity among policy makers and practitioners through the Internet and publications in Arabic.
3. Organize sub-regional workshops intended to familiarize cities with, and to build local capacities in the CDS approach, and on how to tap into the available resources of various donors.



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PARTNERS

1. **AUDI.**
2. **WORLD BANK.**
3. **CITIES ALLIANCE.**
4. **UN - HABITAT.**
5. **ARAB TOWNS ORGANIZATION (ATO).**
6. **OPEC FUND FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**
7. **ARAB FUND FOR SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.**

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. A knowledge base on relevant urban development issues will be established to benefit all cities in the MENA Region.
2. A special web site, featuring materials and guidance on the CDS in English Arabic, will facilitate dissemination of information to all stakeholders, and will provide a medium for interaction among them.
3. Sub-regional workshops that bring together professionals and policy makers will be organized as venues for knowledge sharing and capacity building.
4. By helping cities in the MENA region to adopt the CDS approach, the proposed Facility will contribute to reducing poverty, and to improving the living conditions of the urban poor.

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End

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FOR MORE INFORMATION




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THE STATUS-QUO OF WATER AND SANITATION IN MENA REGION

PRESENTED AT:

URBAN ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOP

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GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVE.

- The environment is characterized by a dynamic balance of interactions between several components, i.e. natural, or man-made origin.
- Any change occurring in one, can cause profound impact to the whole system.
- Populations living in the same geographical area, but having different socio-economic realities, need to be made aware that, the development in their own land, has to be through a joint effort with their neighbors.
- This is applicable between neighboring towns and regions within a country as well as between neighboring countries, and continents.

THE STATUS-QUO OF WATER AND SANITATION IN MENA REGION.

- Scarcity of water resources in the region on one hand, and the population increase on the other.
- The situation is worsen by the difference in regulations and legislations at national and local levels.
- In general a third of the region's population does not have access to safe drinking water supply.
- It is even worse in the sanitation sector, 60% - 80% of the population in the region, use unhygienic methods of human waste disposal.

INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL REGULATIONS TO TACKLE WATER ISSUES AT LOCAL LEVEL.

- Defining the local water policies, and the authorities role in supervision and control.
- Defining the roles and competence of local bodies in managing the water utilities.
- Securing a sustainable development of usable water resources and reducing the environmental consequences.

Contd...

- Regulating the local usage of water between different users, i.e. domestic, agriculture, industry, etc.
- Economic rewards for local users (agricultural, industrial, etc), with regards to consumption/ production ratio.
- Reducing the potentiality of conflict between immediate users, through proper planning, adequate flow of water supply and fair distribution.
- Finding new sources, improving collection, transportation, distribution to reduce losses.
- Guaranteeing quality control of drinking water.

Contd..

- Recycling and reusing of water, and adjusting demands according to availability
- Resort to advanced technology to discover new sources of water, i.e. underground reservoirs, etc.
- Building awareness that water is very important commodity, and it's diminishing, so it has to be used in a responsible manner.
- Mechanism for controlling end usage.

AUDI's ASSISTANCE.

- To conduct a specialized water utilities' workshop, if requested to do that.
- Help in commissioning regional consultants to carry specific studies.
- A CDS information system with regard to regional consultants, international CDS institutions, will soon be in AUDI's website

THE END