

First major scientific event of South Asian Chapter in Karachi

Society for Urban Ecology, South Asian Chapter and Department of Geography, University of Karachi have been organized the First Regional SURE Conference on “Urban Ecology and Sustainable Development” on 18-22 January 2017, in Karachi, Pakistan.

Before the conference, between 16-17 January, 2017 the workshop *3D-GIS in Spatial Ecology* has been organized. During this workshop, professor Salman Qureshi and professor Cristian Ioja give some interactive courses related with Environmental conflicts in urban areas.

The conference held in Dr. A.Q Khan Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering Auditorium, University of Karachi and it included 4 plenary session (Prof. dr. Jamil Kazmi, University of Karachi, Prof. dr. Salman Qureshi, Humboldt University of Berlin, Prof. dr. Seyed Alavipanah, University of Teheran, and Prof.dr. Cristian Ioja, Tresurer of Society for Urban Ecology).

During the conference have been presented 47 oral presentations and 15 posters, in five sessions:

- Session I: Urban Ecosystem Services, Landscape and Perception
- Session II: Urban Land use and Planning
- Session III: Environmental Deterioration and Urban Land Resources
- Session IV: Urban Complexity, Biodiversity and Land use
- Session V: Poster presentations

All of them were interdisciplinary approaches of urban issues as national (e.g. Pakistan), regional (Indus Delta, Balochistan, Sindh), city (Karachi, Lahore, Quetta, Larkana, Chitral) or sub-city scale, presenting concepts, methodologies and many case studies.



The main recommendation of the Conference First Regional SURE Conference on “Urban Ecology and Sustainable Development” are:

- We have to strengthen the communications between science and policy makers, but also between sciences that contribute to urban ecology (**real interdisciplinarity**) – simple language of urban ecology
- We have to recognize that our knowledge about our cities are limited and we have to continue to adopt the new technology in urban ecology (like drone, GIS, remote sensing), in order to increase our understanding about urban habitat (**increase the data availability**)- high resolution of data and dynamic indicators to monitoring these fast changes
- We have to understand that common problems don't mean everytime same solutions. Each urban environment are unique in terms of nature, inhabitants, economy, infrastructure (urban diversity) - the communications are an important step to awareness and to solve more urban problems
- We have to consider in our solutions the expectations of people.
- We have to enhance the efforts to keep and/or to improve the capacity of urban areas to provide ecosystems services, including here the increase of preoccupations for ecosystems services assessment.
- **Each has to contribute to urban ecology**

The conference ends with an interesting fieldtrip in two future cities close to Karachi: Bahria and DHA.

We address special thank to main organisers Prof. Jamil Kazmi, the president of South Asian Chapter of SURE and Prof. dr. Salman Qureshi.