Conference Poster

Urban Oman Exhibition Panel 1 - Project Rationale

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Urbanization Patterns in Oman

INTRODUCTION

During the last decade, Oman has been facing high population growth. In combination with considerable rural to urban migration, urban population growth rate in the country has reached 3.9% in 2015 according to Census Division of the Government of Oman. Oman has undergone unprecedented and rapid settlement structural not only in the urban expansion of Muscat’s Capital Area (SCA) but also in the areas of rural to urban transition. The expansion of suburban residential areas is not only exclusive but also very rapid. The new lifestyle patterns are oriented towards single villas on walled plots as the most favorable residential building type. This trend however shows limited resistance toward land-use change and transition and thus creating new demands on shrinking land resources.

The roughly described 20th century type of urbanization has been replaced by the early 21st century type of urban expansion. The modern urban growth has been an increase in urban land use of 20,000 to 300,000 inhabitants. In the GCC context and in Oman, a number of new cities are under construction to become sustainable cities, at least from their appearance, and some new cities are planned to be built in the new urbanization trend. The need for sustainable land use and settlement strategies, land-use regulations, and action plans for selected areas, recommendations for the reform of physical planning standards, concepts for sustainable land management, urban governance, and urban-renewal urban design is the demand.

OBJECTIVE B

The research project followed three main objectives:

OBJECTIVE A

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OBJECTIVE A

OBJECTIVE B

OBJECTIVE C

Developing application-oriented instruments to guide and control sustainable urban development through locally adapted strategies, programs, and implementation frameworks to manage future urban development in Oman. This includes activities for sustainable land use and settlement patterns, strategies and action plans for selected areas, recommendations for the reform of physical planning standards, concepts for sustainable land management, urban governance, and urban-renewal urban design.

Related references are to Muscat Governorate and Dakhla Governorate with the key release of Bibid and Samal. The concerned areas are a core area of Oman where several urbanization processes can be observed. This research project was carried out in Oman during the period of March 2013 to March 2014.