



Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. Good morning and welcome

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the first meeting of Commission 2: Managing Urban Growth, here in New Delhi.

To all the Nay-Sayers who warned me about my plan to convene the meeting in India – all I can say is “You were wrong!!! I couldn’t have hoped for a better host, venue and participation level.

Thank you Chetan for your great support and cooperation right from the embryonic stage until now.

And you Sunil, thank you for your patience, advice, readiness to assist and the source of my enlightenment about all things India.

As you can see from the program, we have a great line-up of speakers and a diverse range of topics that deal with the challenges of urban growth. I hope you will find the proceedings interesting

Before moving to my introduction to Commission 2, I want to introduce my two co-chairs:

- Prof Mostafa Madbouly, Chairman of the General Organisation for Physical Planning at the Egyptian Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development, who is today’s co-chair; and
- Prof Chetan Vaidya, Director of the National Institute of Urban Affairs in India, and our official host in New Delhi, tomorrow’s co-chair.



As some of the gathered here today are new to Metropolis, perhaps I should start with WHAT IS METROPOLIS

It is a non-political international cooperation and exchange forum between decision-makers from the world's largest cities, in dealing with problems affecting expanding modern metropolises. Metropolis provides considerable prospects for the exchange of information through its varied activities :

- Standing commissions
- Technical assistance scheme
- Training Institute
- Annual statutory meetings
- Triennial congresses

Metropolis is a decentralised organisation with 5 regional offices, which works in partnership with key UN and donor agencies, research institutes and corporate organisations.

Undoubtedly, the standing commissions are the principal avenues for practical exchanges between the members. These operate at the technical level, and their meetings provide first-class opportunities for experts to compare experience and learn from each other.

## Commission 2: Managing Urban Growth

**Chair: Melbourne**  
**The Hon. Justin Madden**  
Minister for Planning  
Government of Victoria, Australia

**Vice Chair: Cairo**  
**H.E. Mr Ahmed El-Maghraby**  
Minister for Housing, Utilities and Urban Development  
Government of Egypt

**Project Director:**  
**Mary Lewin**  
Department of Planning and Community Development  
Government of Victoria, Australia

The commission is chaired by Melbourne..... [READ FROM THE SLIDE)

## Commission 2: Managing Urban Growth

### Population growth & mass urbanisation



#### **Objective**

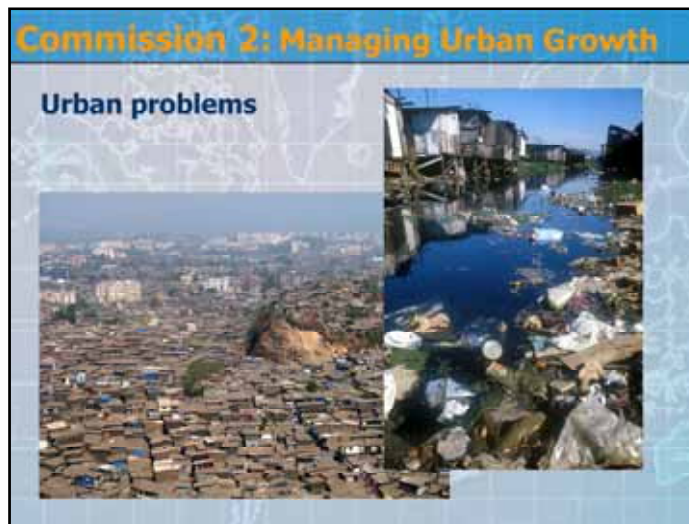
The objective of this commission is to explore the issues of rapid urbanisation and liveability of cities: what makes cities liveable to their inhabitants and attractive to investors; and what governments are doing to protect and enhance the liveability of cities.

#### **Why**

The world is urbanising fast, and this trend is expected to continue unabated as people continue to move from rural to urban areas in search of job opportunities and better services.

The impact on cities is immense. The combination of mass urbanisation and a globalised economy has exacerbated many problems and created new ones. Urban managers face the challenges of balancing metropolitan growth, meeting people's expectations for services, whilst ensuring the liveability and economic competitiveness of their cities.

And, the challenge of the sustainability of cities in the context of climate change is a major additional complexity.



One billion people – a third of the world’s urban population – live in slums. Hundreds of millions in cities across the globe exist in desperate poverty in sub-standard accommodation, and without access to basic services such as clean water, sanitation and health.

Overcrowding and environmental degradation conspire to make the urban poor particularly vulnerable to the spread of disease. Cities in developing countries have great difficulties providing basic services such as water and sanitation which are essential to healthy life.

Whilst cities in affluent countries are vastly better off, they still must deal with the challenges facing all modern cities: demographic and social change, urban density, sustainable development, new technology and global competitiveness, to name just a few.

Urban issues, such as health and environmental circumstances, cut across sectors and regions, reflecting the need for a comprehensive approach to urban policy.

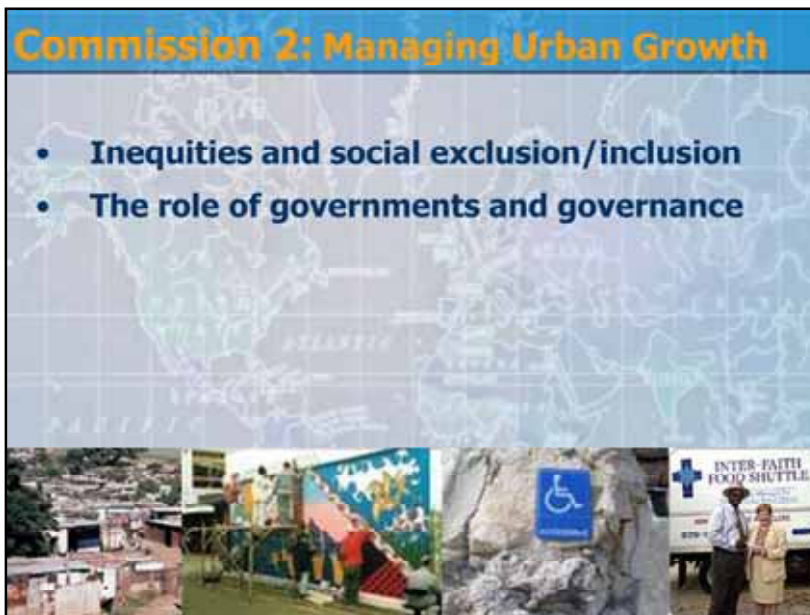
Solutions to the problems generated by urban development must ultimately be found in good urban governance – especially given the trend of governance replacing government. A universal definition of good urban governance acknowledges the goals of decentralisation, municipal management and capacity building, transparency and civic engagement, as well as integration of the poor and marginalised in achieving the goal of the 'inclusive city'.

**These are the issues that underpin the work of this commission.** Because of the magnitude of the project and the diversity of the Metropolis membership, the commission chose the following four themes that resonate with most of the members.



**1. Essential infrastructure** – The Commission aims to assess Metropolis members’ ability to meet the challenges and complexities of providing the essential infrastructure needed to cope with urban growth. Whilst the type and magnitude of the issues vary from city to city, the Commission seeks to assist cities in facing the task of establishing and funding essential infrastructure.

**2. Competitiveness and positioning in the global economy** – Major cities are the economic ‘dynamo’ of their countries. Reduction in trade barriers and the globalisation of the economy have exposed industries in all sectors to fierce competition. In a rapidly changing global economy responsible governments are interested not only in the competitiveness of the private sector, but also in enhancing the competitiveness of their cities. Our aim is to examine how planning, design, new technologies and the implementation of sustainable urban concepts contribute not only to the liveability of cities, but also to their global competitiveness.



**3. Inequities and social exclusion/inclusion** – Exclusion is not only a social issue but an economic issue as well. The Commission will investigate the effects of various approaches to building economic and social opportunities for the least well-off, and will assess how full participation in social, economic and civic life by all improves the wellbeing and prosperity of individuals, families and the liveability of cities overall.

**4. The role of governments and governance** – Urbanisation, rapid development of technology and a globalised economy are redefining the role of governments, whether national, regional or local. Increasingly, governments are looking for private sector partners (public/private partnerships) when providing essential services to their communities. The Commission will address this issue through the experiences of the participants, with the view to identify preferred PPP models.



Increasingly, decision-makers and city planners are turning to new technologies. The search for innovation in addressing areas of concern has occupied strategic planners for quite some time.

Aggressive implementation of technology to address key problems of resource use and environmental quality show much promise. Smart design is already in existence for buildings and cars and can significantly reduce energy use and emissions.

Innovative solutions are not restricted to car use and houses. Smart technology is being adopted in areas such as health services, transport, water and sanitation and many other areas.

But when moving to adopt new technologies one must always define the outcomes first, and determine the required ongoing level of technical capacity or the organisation.

These are some of the issues that the commission is investigating.



Already 23 cities are members of the commission, and we expect the number to increase.

Leading research organisations are directly involved in the work either in an advisory capacity or via research and analysis of collected data.

The commission is assisted by a special working group with representatives from various government departments, academia, and the private sector. It is a hands-on group that is involved in all aspects of the work, including research, analysis/synthesis of information, developing surveys and drafting reports.

The working group is supported also by Prof David Wilmoth from Melbourne, and Prof Meg Holden from the Simon Fraser University in Vancouver.

Presently, we are in the research phase, collecting information via a number of sources, including case studies from the participants.

As I mentioned earlier, commissions are very important. Their value is in the ongoing interaction between the participants, and in their significant impact which extends beyond the Metropolis membership.

Their findings are formally tabled at the triennial congress. This meeting provides YOU the opportunity to influence the outcomes of the commission and the final report which will be tabled at the next Metropolis congress, in Cairo.



This brings me to the end of my overview of Metropolis and the work of Commission 2: Managing Urban Growth.

Two future key events in the Commission's calendar are its next meeting, which will be in October 2010 in Barcelona; and

And the 10<sup>th</sup> triennial congress of Metropolis which will be hosted by Cairo in April 2011.

I hope you will be able to participate in those events.

I now call our first speaker Jeff Rhoda, Vice-President ..... (read from bio).