



**A CONFERENCE ON
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
IN THE 80's**

A document written by participants
in the Hong Kong Symposium
Sheraton Hotel, Hong Kong
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SECTION I

THE GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM

On 25th and 26th February, 1981, forty-five people gathered in Kowloon to participate in the first part of the Regional Consult, the global symposium called "A Conference on Human Development in the 80's." Representing public, private, voluntary and local sectors of Hong Kong, the group discerned trends acting in society, named issues blocking human development and stated the mandates which call for ways to move through the blocks towards new societal directions.

The opening session of the symposium, the first of four, was on Wednesday morning. A contextual address "The New Time", discussion and workshop groups, and a plenary session opened reflections on the current world situation. Participants, taking past events and future expectations, discerned the trends present in society today. The afternoon session identified nine major issue arenas for human development in the 80's.

On Thursday morning, following a contextual address "The New Hope", the historical mandates or obvious mandatory actions for human development for the world were articulated from the perspective of this region, using small workshop groups and a plenary reporting session. The afternoon session began with a panel discussion on new directions in human development, then looked at the implications of the historical mandates for the four sectors of society, the public, private, voluntary and local.

The work and findings of the symposium are included in the following pages.

THE ISSUES

The Conference on Human Development in the 80's discerned the following issues as the primary ones to be dealt with across the world in the decade ahead.

1. SOCIAL CHANGES OUTPACE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

In the arena of effective resource distribution, the major issues confronting human development in the 80's include inadequate housing, inadequate provision of transport facilities, environmental pollution and lack of government control in business and inflation. These are related to each other since all are a result of rapid population growth together with rapid economic development in society. This indicates that the underlying issue is that the government alone is unable to cope with the various rapid changes of society and requires the contribution of other societal agencies to meet the changes.

2. PLANNING AND UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES

In the arena of inclusive resource utilization, the major issues confronting human development in the 80's include ensuring effective town planning, promoting effective population planning, making the best possible use of resources, choosing the correct technology, encouraging the re-distribution of wealth and creating employment. These are related to each other as all require the integration of social, economic and technological development. This indicates that the underlying issue is creating an effective means of allocating resources to meet best alternative uses and planning ahead to create adequate employment and benefits.

3. ENSURING INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT

In the arena of space utilization, the major issues confronting human development in the 80's include deriving the most benefits from the relationships among available labour, available factories and available resources, planning the land use of industrial and residential areas, ensuring continued diversification of industry to meet employment needs and the shifting of labour towards services and away from manufacturing. These are related to each other by the factors encountered in the necessity to integrate the location of commercial, residential and industrial areas. This indicates that the underlying issue is ensuring futuristic integration of commercial, industrial and residential development.

4. A CALL FOR EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION

In the arena of effective political participation, the major issues confronting human development in the 80's include tackling the refugee crisis, ensuring long-term political stability, increasing citizen participation and improving environmental controls. These are related to each other because citizen participation is needed to facilitate comprehensive government focus for solving social and environmental problems. This indicates that the underlying issue is creating new roles for people to participate in local affairs.

5. BROADENING POLITICAL FREEDOM

In the arena of participatory decision-making, the major issues confronting human development in the 80's include government encouragement of creative political participation and pressure groups, designing education programmes for citizen rights and social responsibilities and government assistance to people to build a national identity within an environment of political freedom. These are related to each other as in a majority of countries, human rights are not protected and political participation is non-existent or insufficient, yet both are essential for a healthy community. This indicates that the underlying issue is inadequate education and structures for political freedom which result in a secure and significant existence.

6. DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SECURING BASIC EXISTENCE

In the arena of responsible engagement, the major issues confronting human development in the 80's include providing basic sustenance, providing access to facts for everyone, controlling nuclear arms and changing the life style from apathy to participation. These are related to each other as securing the basic existence is necessary before people can engage creatively in the development process. This indicates that the underlying issue is how to encourage people to engage responsibly in the development process.

7. THE HUMAN QUALITY IN URBAN LIFE

In the arena of community social structures, the major issues confronting human development in the 80's include the search for individual and community identity, weakness in social service agencies in the areas of social security, health services, population planning, the need for significant participation by all age groups in the affairs of the community and the desirability but lack of long term planning and development of social structures in new towns. These are related to each other as communication and support among all members of the community and social services are necessary to provide for harmonious living through adequate role models for adults and youth without which the individual and community identity cannot be achieved. This indicates that the underlying issue is the need to give form to a human life style in the midst of a dehumanizing concrete jungle.

8. PROMOTING GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

In the arena of creative social relationships, the major issues confronting human development in the 80's include limited social awareness, over-emphasized materialism and barriers between people in race and religion. These are related to each other as they have implications for the quality of education and individual relationships. This indicates that the underlying issue is the need for contact between different peoples, without race or religious barriers, to develop a social consciousness for human development.

9. EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE

In the arena of comprehensive public education, the major issues confronting human development in the 80's include providing education for all, educating for change, fostering both human rights and human duties and enabling community participation in education. These are related to each other as an effective local education system needs to be responsive to the needs of the people it is designed to serve. This indicates that the underlying issue is that people experience the educational system as not adequately preparing people to deal effectively with society.

HISTORICAL MANDATES

Hong Kong Regional Consult

February, 1981

B. PROVIDING ADEQUATE STRUCTURES		A. ENABLING EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT			C. REVITALIZING LOCAL COMMUNITIES		
III. IMPROVED SERVICES	IV. BALANCED DEVELOPMENT	V. RELEVANT EDUCATION	I. RESPONSIVE ADMINISTRATION	II. PRACTICAL PLANNING	VI. GRASSROOTS PARTICIPATION	VII. QUALITY LIFESTYLE	VIII. COMMON WEALTH
9. Improving Community Infrastructure	11. Ensuring Environmental Protection	13. Training Global Citizens	1. Creating Common Links	5. Integrating Comprehensive Planning	16. Localizing Political Responsibility	19. Strengthening Urban Community	21. Broadening Economic Foundation
10. Humanizing Estate Planning	12. Developing Alternative Energy	14. Localizing Education Participation	2. Increasing Non-government Participation	6. Controlling Outer-island Development	17. Supporting Community Structures	20. Developing Social Integrity	22. Introducing Futuric Technology
		15. Affirming Cultural Heritage	3. Modifying Administrative Systems	7. Establishing Planning Priorities	18. Encouraging Community Involvement		
			4. Recreating Civil-servant Story	8. Increasing Local Input			

THE HISTORICAL MANDATES

The Conference on Human Development in the 80's discerned the following requirements to be mandatory for human development across the world in the 80's.

A. ENABLING EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT

MANDATE I: RESPONSIVE ADMINISTRATION

Human development in the 80's requires responsive government administration which:

1. links together sectors
2. increases outside participation
3. allows some flexibility in administrative systems
4. recreates the civil-servant story.

This shall be implemented by: a. creating new consensus building mechanisms, b. increasing contributions by non-governmental agencies, c. improving communication between government and people, d. rehabilitating the sense of being a civil servant.

MANDATE II: PRACTICAL PLANNING

Human development in the 80's requires integrated, innovative, practical planning which:

5. involves all sectors
6. includes controlling development of outer islands
7. establishes responsible priorities
8. ensures local input.

This shall be implemented by: a. ensuring local community and individual input in the planning process, b. instituting protection of rural people, c. basing priorities on meeting basic needs, d. securing participation of all sectors in environmental standard setting.

B. PROVIDING ADEQUATE STRUCTURES

MANDATE III: IMPROVED SERVICES

Human development in the 80's requires expansion of basic services which:

9. improve the community infrastructure
10. humanize estate planning.

This shall be implemented by: a. making recreation facilities available to all, b. providing adequate housing and housing support services for all the people, c. developing satellite towns, d. building a sound transportation system.

MANDATE IV: BALANCED DEVELOPMENT

Human development in the 80's requires balanced development which:

11. protects the environment
12. utilizes alternative energy resources.

This shall be implemented by: a. environmental protection programme, b. land resource planning, c. optimum development of existing resources, d. development of new energy sources.

MANDATE V: RELEVANT EDUCATION

Human development in the 80's requires relevant education which will:

13. train global citizens
14. allow participation at the local level
15. affirm cultural heritages.

This shall be implemented by: a. education on world trends, b. arts and media promoting human understanding, c. informal education, d. parental participation in education.

C. REVITALIZING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

MANDATE VI: GRASSROOTS PARTICIPATION

Human development in the 80's requires grassroots participation which:

16. localizes political responsibility
17. supports community structures
18. encourages community activity.

This shall be implemented by: a. regular community meetings, b. district advisory boards, c. increased community leadership roles, d. political representation through voting.

MANDATE VII: QUALITY LIFESTYLE

Human development in the 80's requires a quality life style with:

19. strengthened urban community
20. social integrity.

This shall be implemented by: a. humanizing urban neighbourhoods, b. demonstrating a creative use of living space, c. controlling population expansion, d. incorporating the displaced and disaffected.

MANDATE VIII: COMMON WEALTH

Human development in the 80's requires equitable distribution of the common wealth by:

21. broadening the economic foundation
22. introducing futuristic technology.

This shall be implemented by: a. guaranteeing basic sustenance for all, b. introducing high level technology, c. studying future jobs and skill requirements, d. promoting economic stabilization.

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