

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN İZMİR

PREFACE

Global warming and hence, deterioration of natural environment is the main “illness” of new millenium which will in a near future lead to the destroy of our planet doubtless. As City and Regional Planners, our mission should be in the recovery of this huge problem is to put forward the conscious of “Sustainable Development” term in our profession for future generations. In the city of İzmir case, cooperating by other actors in the city, Metropolitan Municipality of İzmir, started a revolution, by noticing the dimension of this problem. And by taking into consideration this fact, handled a series of “environmentally friendly projects “ which will create “a low carbon city” by a long term master plan, just like the theme of the Congress.

EXISTING STRUCTURE

Physical Description

İzmir is the third largest city of Turkey and the second commercial port, after İstanbul, settled for 8500 years, named **Smyrna** historically.

It is located on the Aegean coasts of West Anatolia, surrounds İzmir Gulf.

It is also a major city of Aegean Region by dominating Gediz and Menderes rivers hinterland and coastal tourism facilities nearby, as it has a Mediterranean climate. Municipal boundaries covers about 550.000 hectares.

The city is located between 26^o 15' northern latitude and 28^o 20' eastern longitude. The length of the city in the North-South direction is approximately 200 km, the width in the east-west direction is 180 km.s.

Demographic Profile

2007 population of the city (including metropolitan area) is about 3.3 Million, of which urban pop. is 2.7 Million whereas rural pop. is 0.6 Million. The reality of migration results over urbanization.

Annual population increase is % 0.22, while the average is % 0.18 which is mostly young population.

Infrastructure

The infrastructural profile of the city is as follows:

Treatment plants.....%5,3

Dumping areas..... %1,1

Ports & piers.....%8,9

Roads, terminals&parking... %66,5

Water supply.....%17,2

Electricity&gas.....%1

Totally 25.695 hectares..... ..%100

Technical infrastructure covers %4,7 of general land use .

Economy

Commercial Sector has been developed in İzmir City by the transportation possibilities (accessibility) , Organized Industrial Zones and Free Zone,the existence of the Port Area and the support of professional institutions.Commercial and industrial areas contain 2.61 percent of Urban Region.% 7 of the export facilities of Turkey and % 89-91 of the export of Aegean Region have been realized over İzmir.Especially food products, construction materials, textile products, furniture, chemical and agricultural products have gained acceleration to the commercial activities in İzmir. % 7 of the export facilities of Turkey and % 89-91 of the export of Aegean Region have been realized over İzmir.Especially food products, construction materials, textile products, furniture, chemical and agricultural products have gained acceleration to the commercial activities in İzmir. The ratio of the Labor Force in Commerce Sector in İzmir to the Labor Force in the same branch in Turkey is % 14.54 which exceeds the Turkey Ratio of % 9.67. The same ratio in Industry for İzmir is %20.58 whereas % 13.35 in Turkey which again exceeds it. For Agriculture, it has a ratio of % 28.54 in Izmir whereas % 43.38 in Turkey which is lower than the country as a whole.

It is clear that Commerce and Industry are the basic sectors, also including the service sector inside.

Aegean Free Zone by its capacity of totally 384 companies(306 national, 29 international and 49 multinational) and a labor force of 11500 contains a great potential for the investments.

Gross National Product (GNP) of the city is % 7,6 of the Country and Growth Rate is % 4 .Total employment is 1.030.081;which is according to sectors

Agriculture191.853
Industry and commerce
(including service sector)838.228

Shortly,City of İzmir has been a center having a commercial value both in the city boundaries and also in Aegean Region and by the fact of the **Port Area**, also internationally.By the way, it is natural that the capital of commerce has been spread out a wide urban land.This distribution is sometimes seen as organized industrial zones whereas in some parts as unorganized zones in integrity or shows in some cases a dispersion as unique parts in the city inside.

PLANNING OVERVIEW

Physical Plan

İzmir Development Master Plan of 1/25.000 scale has been approved by the City Council recently.

The tendency of the plan would be:

Handling the identified processes in a wider context and within the boundaries and its hinterland determined by the New Act for the Municipality, by an integrated approach.

Improving – Directing – Controlling the spatial development in the planning area and its hinterland by planned interventions.

Multidisciplinary approach with the participation of academicians, governmental and non–governmental organizations and also public, have been aimed to be achieved to build a social confidence & consensus on the planning decisions.

Tried to emphasize that the city is owned by the citizens and every step in the decision making process should be shared by the owners of the city.

Threshold Analyses for every district has been carried out to determine the accuracy and applicability of the existing development plans.

The planning decisions raised to collapsed areas as transformation projects or to decrease spatial densities as a result of a fault line or an agricultural potential or else.

Detailed investigation on the land prevented the Master Plan to be a study of just a collage of plans (approved before the New Act); vice versa leading to a more impressive, implementable and sustainable planning concept.

For these reasons, it is inevitable that Izmir Development Plan creates a great opportunity for sustainable urbanization to the Municipality.

Land Use

Planning population of Izmir Urban Region for 2030 is 5.732.706

The major land use decisions;

- % 3,9 Existing housing
- % 2,1 Housing development
- % 3,2 Commerce & industry
- % 0,6 Tourism
- % 79,5 Agriculture & forestry
- % 4,7 Infrastructure
- % 2,3 Open spaces and public land
- % 3,7 Others

Total: 550.670 ha. planned area

Environmental Objectives

The environmental objectives of Izmir Metropolitan Municipality exactly reflect the UN Millennium Development Goal 7; in which ensure environmental sustainability is the key point in the determination of environmental objectives which are:

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources
- Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss
- Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
- Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020; and for Izmir ;by achieving the objectives of
- Prevention of pollution of water resources
- Creating potential resources for water supply.
- Protection of water supply catchment areas by supporting organic agriculture.
- Construction of domestic and biological treatment plants.
- To increase the quality of urban life;

which are;

Liveable spatial sites for housing by urban transformation projects for collapsed areas

“Housing problem” in Turkey has been growing due to rapid population increase and particularly rapid urbanization. Due to the industrialization and rapid urbanization of the new developing cities, such as Izmir, the third biggest city of Turkey, housing demand has been increasing together with an insufficient housing production to meet the needs of the city. Besides all these effects, Izmir faces the difficulty of migration of people from rural areas with hopes of finding new job opportunities, since 1950’s. The ongoing migration process from rural to urban areas has accelerated socio cultural and spatial differentiation and diversity and constituted a great housing problem.

In order to find a solution to this housing problem, various housing policies and master plans have been put into practice; but cannot be properly implemented, because of the land speculation and lack of financial resources of the municipalities to expropriate the land for basic services and political pressures.

Depending on this, both planned and unplanned housing areas have been constituted without assuring the physical and social well-being. Squatter housing construction is the major means for shelter of low-income families who cannot have their place in the housing markets and self-housing their own individual homes. Therefore, the number of squatter dwellings has increased parallel to the rapidly growing urban population. In 1980's as a solution of the housing demand, "mass housing areas" have been built in the planned areas by the municipalities and public associations.

"**Mass Housing Solution**" served especially for the lower income group with the houses located outskirts of the city within low quality of urban life with lack of green areas, natural elements and social environment.

While the mass houses for the lower income group was continuing to be produced, another approach have been developed for the mass housing policy. This new policy is aimed to build new "mass houses" with high living quality standards for the upper income groups, in the centre of the city, with green areas, recreational facilities, shopping centers, sport centers etc.

Re-building the new Central Business District) CBD and the Fair

As being the third biggest city in Turkey in terms of population, İzmir City grows rapidly creating many problems and deficits in the urban macroform. To recover from these specific occasions, many projects are being carried out. The Master Plan for the New Central Business District of İzmir is one of the most important good practices in the city of İzmir

Existing Central Business District (C.B.D) has been located in Konak-Alsancak District, but it does not show the characteristics of a C.B.D by its residential dominancy in its boundaries just leaving the floor areas to be used for commercial activities.

By this fact, an international idea competition towards Port Region has been announced in 2001 and nine awarded projects from the outcome have been assessed and implemented into practice by a New Master Plan for the New C.B.D.

The aim of shaping a new location for the C.B.D. was the need to create "a tissue of not to be passed, but to be reached" by the activities provided as a combination of a variety of commercial, touristic, cultural and administrative sectors and also to lead a huge increase in employment facts by local, national and international investments proposed to be carried out in future taking into consideration also the historical characteristics and its components dominated all over the planned area. It has been located in Karşıyaka-Turan and Salhane Districts and Konak-Port Region and its precinct.

Finally, planning decisions of the Master Plan will be the integration of the North and Southern parts of İzmir City; to gain a new acceleration to the development of the city and to change the image of the city. Especially by the large breathing spaces and green corridors created, which enables the wind from İzmir Bay to enter into sight areas, it will be a good example for a zone, in spite of the existence of high rise buildings, a liveable site can be achieved by a good city planning taking care of environmental objectives and sustainability.

Also as an other "Creation of Green Areas for sustainable development" project is the re-building of Fair Area. One of the most important open spaces of İzmir City, Fair Area has been destroyed by an increase in the number of buildings constructed in the past years. So, by a concept plan of a feedback to the green areas, the buildings have been accumulated in an organized structure.

Public transportation within all modes

By the Transportation Master Plan of İzmir, recently ended, public transport will be supported, also bicycle and pedestrian roads will be generalized especially along the coastal line.

Creation of Green Areas

İzmir Metropolitan Municipality had a task to protect the environment and by this objective; created no. of Natural Parks one of which having 42.5 hectares of land in the Northern part of the city both as a Zoo by the different kinds of animals around the world and recreational facilities

around.

Also existence of geothermal energy as renewable source and the increase in the number of natural gas users is a big success in the way to prevent the environmental degradation in the city.

IMPLEMENTATION

The headlines as follows are the Political Approach and objectives of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality which are clarified in the Strategic Plan of Municipality approved by City Council and will be a sample both for all the Local Authorities in Turkey and also in the world.

MANAGEMENT:

Producing active, effective and qualified municipal services. Establishing the necessary mechanisms for the citizens participation to the decision-making and implementation process.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & HEALTH:

Comprehensive protection of urban environment & nature.

RECONSTRUCTION, URBAN CONSERVATION & DESIGN:

Cities live with their cultural heritage, so do the citizens... By the way, it is a vital necessity to evaluate the past to create future of the city.

URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE:

Investments for effective infrastructure to increase the quality of life.

TRANSPORTATION:

Constitution of economic, man-prior, comfortable, environmentally sensitive transportation links and gather different transport modes in a balance.

HEALTH:

Contribution for economic, fair, qualified health service & create a conscious society about health care.

CULTURE, SPORTS, EDUCATION SERVICES:

Being competitive with all countries and increase the life quality of citizens.

TOURISM, FAIR & EXTERNAL RELATIONS:

Being one of the favourable city in the fields of thermal tourism and exhibitions.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT:

Provision of safety.

Carry out the emergency services efficiently.

Prevention of natural disasters.

Constitution & implementation of required plans.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES:

Achievement for effective and accurate usage to the information and incorporation of the citizens to the electronical environment.

OPEN SPACES & RECREATION AREAS:

Increase the life quality of citizens by the contemporary urban design concepts and landscape architecture principles.

ENERGY:

Giving priority and searching for alternative energy sources.

BUDGET:

Constitution of a balanced budget for extended municipal services and investments.

FINANCE:

Creating appropriate financial possibilities for the essential expenditures.

EMPLOYMENT:

Total employment for 2030.....1.978.801

Agriculture192.094

Industry and commerce

(including service sector).....1.786.707

Achievement for these proposed figures of employment.

CONCLUSION:

The projects described in this text are only a few sample projects of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality, among a large number of them carried out and handled, having an authority boundary over 550,000 hectares of land, just to stress the struggles and encourage for reaching success of a Local Authority of a city which will soon be recognized around the world.

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