

AUSTRALIA

The paper from Australia, prepared by Dr. Chris Paris, says that Australian Local Governments play very small roles in the development of depopulated rural areas. He first explains the reasons why Australian rural areas differ from those of other EROPA countries by showing some distinctive features of Australian local government. Two issues are important. The one is the Australian Federal System. It is made up of the "commonwealth government", "state and territory government" and "local government", and local government is the weakest participant. Responsibilities and powers of local government are defined by "state and territory government" and finance comes from both "state and territory government" and "commonwealth government". So local government is vulnerable in finance. The other is urban/rural population change. Population concentrates in special urban area and very slow population growth in rural area. Then he explains the limited role of local government in rural development by showing examples of some rural local governments. But he lastly says "The need for positive local approaches, however, has never been greater."

BANGLADESH

The paper from Bangladesh is written by Mr. Serajul Hossain. In Bangladesh there lives almost 105.0 mil people and it is still growing. But more than 50% of them are landless and 76% of the rural households fall below the required minimum calorie intake. Rural development programs have been mainly done by national government. Although the programs alleviated poverty, they had inherent limitations and strong local government has not been established. Now in addition to the national programs, the local government institutions will have their own development programs. One of the local government "Upazila Parishads" is judged to be capable of managing the components of national projects. He says development may be more rational if it goes through local government institutions.

CHINA

This paper was prepared by Ms. Li from China.

With 80% of its over 1 billion people living in rural areas, a basic task of the government of the People's republic of China is to implement the mechanization of agriculture, to develop the economy in rural areas, and to raise the standard of the peasants. The relatively slow economic development of the cities is not enough to support the numbers of excess peasant labor flowing into the cities. Since most of China's population resides in the rural areas, the development of rural areas is essential.

In 1978, it was decided to reform the basic structure of the people's communes which was a centralised management and collective labor system within the framework of people's communes. This method had resulted in a stagnation of the economy, single product agriculture, overcentralization of production, and overall low productivity.

The old monopoly purchase and allocation system has now been replaced by a contract and market purchase system. The new form of management is a double structure consisting of the united management of cooperative economic organizations and the peasant household contract responsibility system.

Rural economic development now depends heavily upon county level government. Local governments have taken the initiative in exploiting local resources, features, and strengths. This has resulted in better cooperation from the peasant population. The right of the peasants to manage their own production and increased local autonomy resulted in an unprecedented growth of the rural economy. However, the technical foundation is still manual and education is poor. Backward education and the lack of technical personnel is still a major drawback to rural development and resources remain underutilized.

INDIA

India shows some highly developed metropolitan regions with vast tracts of underdeveloped areas. It indicates a tendency of heavy out-migration from the rural areas to the major urban areas. Such migration is also mainly of male population that too of working age group. Therefore the rural areas of India, especially in the interior locations and without much development are becoming depopulated and lacking necessary basic infrastructure such as accessibility, adequate drinking water, educational, health & sanitary facilities. The paper concentrates on the problems of those underdeveloped areas, therefore pays special attention to strengthening Rural Local Government in those areas which is most responsible for the development. It presents the structure and working of Local Government with its background, history, evolution, form, and present development trend, and situation. The paper attempts to living out suggestions for future work, such as massive development program, funding, needed changes in the Planning and Development framework, and strengthening the local government in a situation of low literacy and poverty as also slower tempo of development, there is always a tendency to migrate to big cities for the hope for a better living. If there are opportunities for local level development and better living conditions in local habitat, it is possible to influence the out-migration tendency and socio-economic development. It is thus, imperative that the Local Government as the grass root level of democratic decentralization and as the basis of socio-economic progress, should be strengthened for progress and development of these depopulated area.

INDONESIA

This paper was prepared by Mr. Adipura from Indonesia.

Indonesia's rising population and rapid urbanization has resulted in a developmental dualism in which an increasing proportion of the nation's poor reside in rural areas. Besides limiting population growth, a more appropriate utilization of technology and use of natural resources is needed. Rural area development is thought to be essential to the development of Indonesia as a whole.

In addition to improvements in incomes and output, development typically involves radical changes in institutional, social, and administrative structures, as well as popular attitudes, customs, and beliefs. Therefore local government, in accordance with regional administrative planners, have an essential role in the implementation of the development of rural areas. Changes must be implemented slowly so as to offset the effects of social revolution threatening the nation's stability.

The cost of development is supported by tax, loans, government subsidies, and role sharing with the private sector. Central government is responsible for enhancing development of depopulated rural areas and to make funding available. Development at lower levels of administration must complement national development. It is thought that the best policy is to strengthen the selfreliance of each region. For local level government rural development implementation takes the form of laws and regulations so that democratic control over the use of funds is ensured.

JAPAN

The paper from Japan is written by Mr. Naohisa Nagata. He first explains the history and present state of depopulated areas by using statistics and defines depopulated area as the place where functions of regional lifestyles and production have deteriorated due to a marked exodus of population." And he shows governmental countermeasure for these areas, like special laws and the Fourth Comprehensive National Land Development Plan. The Plan is providing favourable conditions for depopulated municipalities, for example, emphasizing the necessity of development of the areas, proposing various concrete suggestions and giving the definition of the character of the present or age. Nowadays the growing variety in human sense of value and advancement of high technology is offering new possibility to the areas. After that he explains countermeasure on prefectural and municipal levels, by showing successful examples of promoting their national products, sightseeing and resort industry etc. In conclusion, he says, the important points to revitalize depopulated areas are independent initiative and imaginations of residents in such areas, adequate transportation system especially for children and the aged, and utilization of advanced communication system.

NEW ZEALAND

The paper from New Zealand is based upon the letter from Mr. P M Thomson for Secretary of Trade and Industry. In New Zealand, Central and Local Government have no specific rural areas that need special assistance for their low population. It is because there are no regions specifically designated as under populated. So instead of development plans for specific areas, they have policies that assist all the regions in New Zealand, like the RDIG and CEIS scheme administered by the Department of Trade and Industry. Any individual, business or organization may apply the scheme. And Local Government creates the conditions in their own specific region to encourage the developments they wish to attract through regional schemes. He kindly offers the speech by Minister of Regional Development explaining the Government's regional development policy and its effect besides the brochure of RDIG and CEIS schemes.

PAKISTAN

The paper from Pakistan is written by Mr.S.A.H.Shamsi. In Pakistan, the problem of depopulation refers to four kinds of migratory processes; 1) Inter-provincial migration 2) Inter-district migration towards other big cities 3) Inter-district migration to the Mandi Towns which were established during the British period 4) International migration for the higher level of wage rate. The paper points out the out-migration phenomenon in Pakistan in comparison with the one in Japan. Migration is always reversible due to ties of joint family system in Pakistan, and because growing rate of rural areas is over 2.50% per year, the depopulation effect is not quite visible. Yet it doesn't change the fact that the development of depopulating rural area is an absolute task. These depopulating rural areas have an extremely low level of infrastructural facilities, have few opportunities of employment, because the industry is missing altogether in those areas. Therefore, it brings the result of 53% of the people are looking for livelihood outside their villages.

Administrative arrangements have been performed for the improvement of these conditions. Pakistan consists of three tiers of government; Federal, Provincial, and Local for the purpose of planning and executing its development policies. The federal, Provincial, and Local governments coordinate with each other quite closely to develop their respective programs under the overall plan. The Local Councils are responsible for developing the rural areas including the establishment of the infrastructural facilities. Based on the functional assignment, the Local Council make their development plans. One successful example is the Focal Points Program launched by the government of Punjab in 1981—1982 to provide a package of basic facilities at central points in rural areas, to inspire local development and to restrict

rural urban migration. It activated the rural industry and increased employment opportunities. It is obvious that growth and development process has mostly lead by the government in Pakistan.

PHILIPPINES

The paper from Philippines is prepared by Mr.Perfecto L.Padilla. Outmigration in the rural areas has both positive and negative effects in the Philippines. Outmigration may serve as an economic adjustment mechanism by reducing local labor surpluses and lessening competition for scarce labor. Also the flowback of some portions of their incomes to their families back home is widely pervasive among migrant Philipinos and their families in the rural area makes significant remittance to their home villages. On the other hand, the loss of a significant percentage of younger and better educated population may result in the reduction of agricultural productivity and impairment of local agricultural services. The government is preoccupied with the conditions and problems obtaining in the urban centers, like slum settlements, squatter areas and unemployment, also high percentage of migrants below 18 years old are only to become victims of crime-related jobs such as prostitution and prohibited-drug pushing.

Most of the public services and governmental functions are administered by the central and local government on a partnership and shared-responsibility basis to respond to the effects and impacts of out-migration and consequent depopulation. First and basic government policies and programs to accelerate the development of the depopulated areas would be the improvement of living conditions in the rural areas. The government has enunciated a number of programs including the introduction of agricultural program, dissemination on improved farm technology and extention of agricultural services. But the problem remains that these policies and programs is extensive only in selected regions of the country. Therefore, the government both at the national and local level should exert much more intensive and extensive effort in the pursuit of such policies and programs. The Local government lacks their financial resources to support the delivery of rural development services and to put up local public enterprises and undertake projects that would generate employment opportunities. The Local governments should strengthen their participation by taking the initiative of identifying some aspects of a development programs.

THAILAND

The Paper from Thailand is prepared by Mr. Manit Thangsakul. The government of Thailand is subdivided into many sectors from the village level to the central government level. In rural areas of Thailand, most of the population are farmers with poor income. People who love in these areas are economically

deprived, suffering from inconvenient communications, low production or income, poor health, shortage of water and lack of knowledge concerning methods of self-improvement. The problem of depopulation occurs when the young men and women leave their home villages to big cities searching for better jobs with higher wages. Several projects have been implemented to improve the rural standard of living and to distribute wealth and prosperity as much as possible to all depopulated rural areas. The Local Government as the core for cooperating all rural developing projects takes a very important position.

The Department of Local Administration has personnel throughout the country. The staff officials of the Department of Local Administration both in the central and local cooperate each other to carry out the rural development projects. By this method, they can easily find out the problems and basic needs of the rural people then collect all problems and submit to the upper government for consideration and further action.

One remarkable success in the rural development project is the example of "hilltribe", a minority group of people living in depopulated areas. Most of the tribal communities are located in remote mountainous areas, to which communication network, basic government service and local administration have not yet been made accessible. To develop these "hilltribes", the royal Thai Government constantly made a determined effort and a strong commitment to identify and solve the problems which affect the hilltribes and the nation as a whole through implementation of the hilltribe welfare and development program. The program was implemented by three levels-national, ministerial, and provincial. Under the direction of the royal Government, the Local Government enabled the hilltribes to live peacefully and in integration within the Thai society as self-sufficient and law-abiding Thai citizens. The hilltribes gained considerable benefit from a better job opportunities being promoted through various planned development-based projects such as plantation of coffee or perennial crops.

UNITED KINGDOM

The paper from U.K., is written by Dr. Paul Cloke. First he describes population in rural Britain through depopulation and repopulation balance, which means population decrease and increase co-exist in rural areas. Then he explains development planning in Britain. The role of local government in the development of depopulated rural areas has largely been constrained by planning and legislation issued from central government. The resultant policy was resource concentration into selected growth centers. There has been vague hope that by concentrating resources such as service, employment and housing opportunities, some benefits would somehow be transmitted to the residents of surrounding hinterland villages. This policy was based on various theories like "scale economy", and implemented in several ways, several times. Nevertheless, the essential problems such as unemployment, housing, public transportation etc., in rural communities have remained. Under these constraints, local problems existed like interorganizational conflicts, lack of finance, lack of control over private-sector interests, insufficient governmental and political supports. So crucial point should be how to develop a response to rural problems within a climate of insufficient corporate responsibility for planners and inadequate financial resources for their projects.

In conclusion, he touches upon the increasing constraints on local government by central government through the Thatcher era. As an outcome of Thatcherism, responsibility for community development has transferred to the private sector and the laws of the market-place became dominant. Namely the trend demised the role of local authorities at the county level as agencies of community development and that of plans for development. So to reverse the trends, considerable change in political situation is necessary.