

PLENARY SESSION IV

Plenary Paper:	Conservation and Management of Urban Ecosystem
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Plenary Speaker:	Manuel M. Dayrit
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Discussants:	Gelia T. Castillo Orlando S. Mercado Antonio Abaya

I. SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

The following points were raised during the discussions:

- To upgrade living conditions in Metro Manila, the Asian Development Bank estimates that the amount involved is P16.6 billion. This will make the city livable but may attract more rural-urban migrants; also, there will be less money available for the rural areas.
- The government has no policy on air pollution, solid waste, sewage disposal. Sewer pipes cause water pollution in our waters.
- Squatters cannot just be ejected - this is human rights violation. In fairness to the evacuees, adequate facilities should be provided in the evacuation area. The ratio of rural to urban settlers used to be 70:30. It is now 47:53.
- There is no general plan for land use. If there is one, this is individually planned.

- We have a chronic shortage of things that we need:
 - flood control infrastructure;
 - water supply;
 - public transport facilities;
 - supply of electrical energy; and
 - health and hospital services.

- We have an overabundance of things we do not want or need:
 - air and water pollution;
 - uncollected or poorly disposed garbage;
 - unregulated and unmanaged population growth leading to the proliferation of squatter colonies; and
 - hazardous and toxic wastes.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In the coming 1992 elections, more accountable and environmentally friendly leaders should be elected.
2. There should be some 3500 natural family planning clinics all over the metropolis.
3. The government should come up with policies after consultation with various sectors of the population so that there can be mobilization and implementation by all sectors.
4. The network of urban barangays should be mobilized and given specific duties and responsibilities in the management of the urban ecosystem. To improve the status of a barangay with the active participation of its people, the process should be done one grade at a time to make development manageable.
5. There is a need to conceptualize and execute a massive program to build pre-fabricated, low-cost mass housing, especially for the poorest of the poor. Agrarian reform may benefit less than 10 % of the population while a housing reform can benefit all.

6. There is an urgent need for a network of elevated, rapid-transit LRTs that extend as far north as Malolos, as far east as Tanay and Los Baños and as far south as Cavite City. This would decongest the Metro area and provide commuters enough time to get to work, reach school or shop in the Metro area.
7. Metro Manila should be crisscrossed with non-stop road arteries where all intersections are marked by overpasses and interchanges. For example, a non-stop ring artery in EDSA would allow travel from Pasay to Kalookan in 15 minutes.
8. Manila's 4,000 tons of garbage daily should be compacted or incinerated in Tondo and used to reclaim land in Manila Bay.
9. Laguna de Bay can be made a source of drinking water by walling off the least polluted section of the lake and having this aerated, filtered and chemically treated.

