

Overview of the Conference

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Clearly it is not possible to summarise the debates of all the sessions for the past 3 days considering the variety of topics discussed and the rich debate that followed in most sessions.

Therefore, we have decided to highlight *keywords* and *key strategies* that these debates revealed.



The conference started with 2 excellent keynote speeches that highlighted:

- **Externalities** and their impact on quality of life
- The need for **Avoid-Shift-Improve** strategies in minimising these externalities
- Utilising *capacity* in the most efficient way, which requires **restricting and rethinking** the role of automobiles and rethinking the role of passenger transport vehicles
- Stimulating **behavioural change** to encourage usage of public transport and NMT which is likely to require both physical regulations and fiscal measures

- The need for and importance of ***governance and decisionmaking*** for integrated planning of transport, sustainable urban development, and the environment
- How to ***engage*** the ***community***, the ***stakeholders*** and ***users*** in planning a sustainable transport system, which requires radical changes in the way urban transport planners ***communicate*** with themselves, land use planners, politicians and citizens

In many sessions, the following strategies were frequently addressed:

- The need to put **accessibility** at the heart of any new development
- Making **safe, efficient, fast, reliable, integrated public transport systems** with effective and real-time information systems, and using environmentally friendly energy sources
 - The role that urban rail systems- metro, LRT, BRT and electric buses can play
 - The need for a **Public Transport Authority** to integrate urban transport networks and services

- Making *walking* and *cycling* safe, convenient and attractive
 - The role that urban planning can play in this
 - The role of bike-sharing systems

- Addressing the challenges/role of *paratransit* modes, including taxis, motorcycles and cycles
 - Safety being a key aspect

- Ensuring *resilient* cities and regions and the role that transport planning and management can play in this aspect

- **Financing** for new infrastructure as well as for upgrading and maintenance of existing transport networks
- Appropriate **transferrability** of effective solutions and strategies being mindful of the **local context**
- Bridging the gap between **research** and **policy** to ensure maximum advantage is gained for all
- **Awareness raising campaigns** to create a mind shift

As you can see the sessions addressed a wide range of topics.

Based on the deliberations of the conference ***Car restriction schemes, Air quality management strategies, Road safety*** and ***Climate change mitigation actions*** deserve further analysis and debate.

We, therefore, suggest these four themes could be the focus of future CODATU regional events during 2015 and 2016.

