

*Head of Tehran Studies and Planning Center:*

# Reorganizing Jobs and Enterprises in Tehran Is in Line with Sustainable Development

**I**n the current era of technology and the expansion of communications, man is continuing the destruction of environment, unfortunately.

The environment pollution is perhaps one of the most dreadful legacies of the industrial

revolution. The outbreak of population and the increasing trend of consumption of natural and artificial materials have changed the face of the earth. It seems the environment has not been paid due attention in the current generation's life. Moreover, many people pass

it easily.

We should bear in mind that Iran's natural environment is badly threatened. Tehran Studies and Planning Center is the only entity which pursues the issue of environment protection in order to establish a balance

between environmental issues and sustainable development.

Mohammad-Taqi Amanpour, the head of Tehran Studies and Planning Center has conducted an interview in this regard which comes as follow.



***We are in need of an environmental revolution to remove pollutions and save the environment.***

**Q: What issues threaten the environment for the time being?**

It can be said that the environment is threatened by man across the globe, and Tehran is not an exception. Greenhouses gases which are produced mainly by some countries have implications on climate. Moreover, hospital and chemical wastes worsen the case. Many of diseases are as the result of irregular use of natural resources. In fact, man has changed the environment in his favor and so has led to an unsustainable development worldwide. The ever increasing use of natural resources has not only unbalanced the ecosystems, but also has increased pollutions.

Irregular use of pastures and jungles by men and animals has also added to the damages to the environment.

***It can be said that the environment is threatened by man across the globe, and Tehran is not an exception. Ecosystems have been replaced by buildings, roads, and factories.***

**Q: What measures should be taken to prevent from more damages to the environment?**

With the global increase of population, ecological potentials are decreased which will culminate in destruction of forests, pastures, and other natural resources. We should not worsen the issue of environment destruction through leaving wastes in the environment.

Rain transfers air pollution is transferred to water tables and this pollution can impose damages to the environment. Tehran is situated at the southern Alborz range with the precipitation of 200 million cubic meters. Seven rivers were joined together at Shahr-e Rey to irrigate wheat fields and gardens. Now, there is no track of those lush gardens and only a metropolis named Tehran is remained with high-rise buildings and highways.

Tehran is home to more than 10 million people.

Nowhere in the city, can you find serenity. Polluted waters are used to irrigate vegetable fields. Stress, tension, anxiety, and mental disorders are the fruits of such pollutions. Heart and brain attacks are rampant in big cities such as Tehran. Types of air, water, and environment pollutions claim many lives each year. Ecosystems are being turned into buildings and trade centers. People, plants, and animals hardly can breathe with convenience. City wastes are not separated. Containers and bottles are not recycled and reused in the production processes. So, we are in need of an environmental revolution. A comprehensive model should be developed for environment protection in line with sustainable development requirements.

This model should meet requirements of integrated city management so that all entities active in the city should take order of an integrated management system base on the articles 136 and 137 of the third and the fourth development plans which stipulate that 22 ministries should run under supervision of the municipality.

**Q: Has any plan proposed to the parliament for integrated city management?**

The integrated city management plan pictures the sustainable development, based on which all jobs and industries which are active within urban limits have taken into account.

Registrations in schools are performed in coordination with the municipality. Telecommunication services are offered so that it prevents citizens from unnecessary referrals. Medical networks are established according to the needs of the public.

In general, all activities and responsibilities are defined based on the city management law and every decision-making is conducted based on the integrated city management principles.

But unfortunately, the government has not approved the integrated city management, because it will be obliged to approve a series of laws and allocate financial sources to the municipality.

**Q: How can citizens help protect the environment and participate in attaining sustainable development?**

To experience a health life, education should start inside families. A great share of resources, including financial, human, and food resources are

not used properly. Unfortunately, the education system does not teach students how to consume in the right way. The proper methods of energy consumption have not been institutionalized. Sustainable development contains many aspects which are not confined to the environment protection. It also covers other issues such as social and demographic problems. We should establish proper patterns of consumption in families and learn not to waste national and social assets. Citizens can take part in social and economic development in all fields.

Unfortunately, we are causing problems to the environment through following improper patterns of consumption and imposing harms to natural resources.

Generally speaking, we should take steps in 3 fields of cooperation, institutionalizing cultures, and supervision to achieve sustainable development. We should have a comprehensive and systemic point of view.

**Q: What measures have been so far taken by Tehran Studies and Planning Center in this respect?**

Tehran Studies and Planning Center developed a comprehensive plan in 2007 for integrated city management. In the same year, the center was vested with conducting research and development studies in Tehran Municipality with an approach to materialize sustainable development goals. To this end, we signed a contract with a renowned technical center to develop a comprehensive model for sustainable development.

As the second step, scientific-based policies were defined and instructed as the scientific charter of the municipality. The third step was designing a research system for the municipality to conduct feasibility studies through which the applicable fields can be distinguished.

As you know, a large part of the country's revenues is used for research and study. In the current year which has been named the year of improving consumption patterns, we have set up a working group in cooperation with the University of Tehran's job creation faculty. In addition, we have started the design a development of a comprehensive city management plan in order to reorganize jobs and industries which are active in the city of Tehran.

Another plan for the establishment of a sustainable model for education is also underway which stipulates laboratories in schools of Tehran should be outfitted with equipments manufactured using recycled materials.

Anyway, attaining sustainable development is possible in the city of Tehran through establishing proper and right patterns and benefiting from the cooperation of individuals and officials.

***Tehran Studies and Planning Center has started the design of a comprehensive city management plan in order to reorganize jobs and industries which are active in the city of Tehran in line with the goal of sustainable development.***

**Q: How much time do you expect to attain sustainable development in city management?**

A 5-7 year period can be regarded as reasonable for materializing sustainable development, although there is no specific limitation in this regard.

Tehran Studies and Planning Center hereby invites all journalists of city- and environment-related fields to take part in the city management educational workshops and we will award the best report.

## Deputy director of Tehran Studies and Planning Center: Tehran Is Facing Serious Environmental Damages



**T**ehran and other big cities suffer from lack of integrated city management. So, Tehran Studies and Planning Center is developing a comprehensive plan for integrated management of Tehran metropolis.

Seyyed Mohammad Mojabi, the deputy head of Tehran Studies and Planning Center stated that Tehran is a megacity with over 50 kilometer length and 28 kilometers width, measuring some 668 square kilometers in area.

Statistics show Tehran had a population of some 7.5 million in 2006, and the figure has certainly increased. This is while such big cities suffer from high density population and this issue requires the management of the city by efficient directors.

Tehran is facing serious environmental problems such as air, water, and soil pollutions. Nearly all metropolises are facing such problems. The fourth socio-economic development plan had emphasized that the air pollution should be reduced to a great amount, but the goal has yet to be realized.

Some 80 percent of Tehran pollutions result from vehicles. Currently, over 3.4 million cars and 2.2 million motorcycles are moving across Tehran. Only 30 percent of trips is carried out via the public transportation fleet. This issue has contributed to a heavy traffic of vehicles which has led to a great waste of time and imposes much harm to the social and economic sectors.

Tehran Studies and Planning Center is active in different fields to attain sustainable development and realize integrated city management which is of paramount importance in social, economic, and environmental aspects.

Environmental issues are very important in big cities such as Tehran and the center has adopted proper policies to identify and deal with the environmental problems, so we should have SWTO which requires a comprehensive analyzing.

Identifying state of environment (SOE) is underway by the center to get a true image of the current condition of the environment and this is for the first time a SOE plan is being developed in the country.

All data related to the city, gardens, industries, and trade centers are gathered in the form of the SOE plan and we can analyze the data to make proper decisions.

As per the enactment of the City Council, the municipality is obliged to take necessary measures based on environmental considerations in order to improve the quality of living in the city of Tehran.

Mojabi went on to say that the Tehran Municipality's committee strategic studies and planning is working on different aspects of the Tehran environment to remove the extant problems of the city.

He added that the lack of an integrated city management system is a major predicament which can negatively affect the air pollution. This is while that based on the fourth economic development plan air pollution of Tehran should reach a standard level. But we are far from the standards and in case an integrated city management is launched, the air pollution will be reduced.

The Studies and Planning Center is mainly focused on acquiring the justifications required for practicing integrated city management and to this end the SOE project is being implemented for the first time in the country.