

# Urban Management and Organization of Modern and Sustainable Cities – The Need for a Paradigm Shift

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*Four-fifth of world population lives in urban areas. By 2020, 75% of Malaysian will experience the same (HDR, 2007/8). **City governance** will be key to quality of life.*



*City ecosystems that aided the growth and the high standard of living are **unsustainable**. Hence, the **reordering** of priorities and **reshaping** values and lifestyle is needed.*



*Modern cities must accommodate the diversity of urban society with sustainability i.e. **development that meets the needs of today without compromising the needs of the future generations, as the key goal.***



*Present paradigm of city government is characterized by **limited public participation, delittantist view, fragmented systems, service quality and low political capital.***

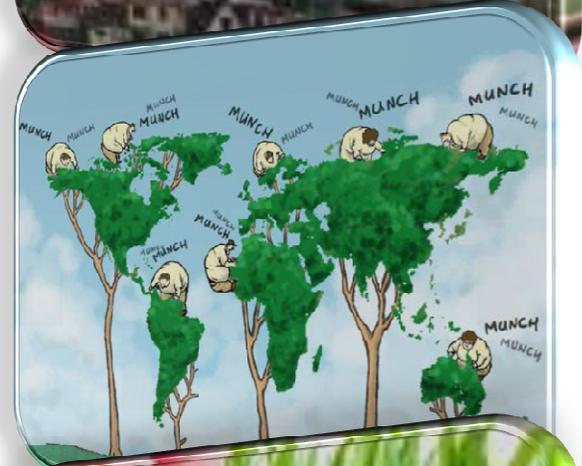


*Modern and sustainable city governance is underpinned by a **different notion of government and the governed**. The consumerist paradigm limits or even arguably, distorts the role of governance.*

Dimension	Producer-Consumer	Government-Citizen
Role	Producer Provider	Mediator Protector
Challenge	Production, Management	Welfare , safety, consultation, balance
Values	Consumerist individualistic	Conservationist Collectivistic
Relationship	Economic Transactional	Political & social Relational
Performance Indicators	Productivity Satisfaction	Support Participation
Public	Consumer Recipient Buyer	Decider Participant Taxpayer

Source; Hazman & Maniam, 2008

*Current challenges facing cities are;*  
***rapid urbanization,***  
***consumerist society,***  
***little co-governance,***  
***rhetorical adherence***  
***to green values and***  
***disempowerment of***  
***city governments.***



Paradigms	Present	Future
Governance System	Government Top-down City driven	Governance Mixed People driven
Source of Power	Authority-based	Trust-based
Values	Exploitation Efficiency Economic Government	Conservation Integrity Social Governance
Technology	Service delivery Managerial capacity	Seamless service e-participation
Power Distribution	Centralization and Recentralization	Decentralize from federal to city, city to people

*Present city  
**ecosystems** face  
tremendous strains.  
Signs of **fault lines**  
are everywhere to see.  
This **trajectory** must  
be altered but it may  
be discomfoting and  
at times, painful.*



*To strengthen local and city governance, the state ... and federal governments **must decentralize, not recentralize local powers and functions.** In the long term, **co-governance optimizes and energizes** the social resources to shape the city of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*





*Unless we step back and **re-examine our paradigms** i.e. mental models, we will have a limited toolbox to deal with intractable problems of the future. Thank you.*

