Introduction to Regional Planning

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Note: this lecture note is based on a book by John Glasson (1978) “Introduction to Regional Planning”.
Why Plan?

- Planning has been going on throughout history – man has a natural urge to plan, it is part of his organisational make-up.

- Planning as one of the basic ‘social drives’ of society – a drive which is learned in society, and upon the satisfaction of which rests the survival of society.

- Rapid increase in planning – private actions and market forces often resulted in situations which the nation is not willing to tolerate and which only be improved by means of a control mechanism – PLANNING.

  - Lack of family planning → ?
  - Lack of economic planning → ?
Why Plan?

- Problem with the laissez-faire approach → ?

- Rapid rise in population (urban population), increasing affluence and rampant technology have all increase the need for planning.

- But what is the control mechanism called PLANNING?
What is Planning?

- A general theory of planning has not yet been written, however certain features of planning in general, **features common to all types of planning**, can be identified.

  ➢ **A sequence of actions** which are designed to solve problems in the future → all planning involved a sequential process.
What is Planning?

- A sequence of actions → how can I get from Kuala Lumpur to Johor Bharu as quickly as possible? → How can an extra 1,000,000 people can be accommodated in Gua Musang over the period of 2010 – 2030? → How can our company achieve an income growth rate of 5% per annum?

Friedman (in Glasson, 1978:19):

“planning is primarily a way of thinking about social and economic problems, planning is oriented predominantly towards the future, is deeply concerned with the relation of goals to collective decisions and strives for comprehensiveness in policy and program. Wherever these models of thought are applied, there is a presumption that planning is being done”
## Planning frameworks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Physical planning</th>
<th>Economic planning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Allocative planning</td>
<td>Innovative planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Multi objective planning</td>
<td>Single objective planning</td>
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<td>4. Indicative planning</td>
<td>Imperative planning</td>
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The Need for Regional Planning

- As a response to pressing regional issues + pressure from higher governmental actions.

- Two dominant regional issues:
  - Increasing urbanisation and increasing standard of living and personal mobility;
  - Depressed industrial and rural regions suffering from economy imbalanced.

- Other issues → existence of separate regional cultures, political identities and desire for autonomy.
The Need for Regional Planning
urbanisation and increasing standard of living and personal mobility
urbanisation and increasing standard of living and personal mobility
Depressed industrial & rural regions suffering from economy imbalanced

Divided nation?
Depressed industrial & rural regions suffering from economy imbalanced

Divided nation?
existence of separate regional cultures, political identities and desire for autonomy
Regional Planning & the Management of Regional Development

- Regional planning can be seen as an attempt to guide the development of a region.

- Friedman defines regional development as:

  “Regional development concerns the incidence of economic growth. It is ultimately the result of the location of economic activities in response to differential regional attractions. Shifts in the location pattern have direct repercussions on income, employment and welfare. Since spatial organisation is a function of activity and attraction patterns, regional development is simply an expression of these patterns”
However, the distributional impact of development may not be even (between areas and between one person opinion may not fit into other person interest).

Achieving consensus about future development is important to encounter conflicting views.

Consensus might be achieved on ENDS, but there could be conflict on the MEANS (how to achieve those ends/solve conflict → policy tools)
Regional Planning & the Management of Regional Development

- But WHO manages this process of regional development?

- Management, in the societal context involves ‘the powers of decision to influence social change’.

- But still, WHO are they?