

**Professional scientific sessions for art, architecture and urban planning Thursday evenings**

**Held in: Conference hall of Herampey Consulting Engineers**

**Date: 15.08.2019**

**Title: Professional roundtable - Art, Architecture and Urban Planning - Urbanism in Tehran.**

**Roundtable members: Mr. S. Shahabian, Mr. M. Moini, Mr. O. Torabi, Mr. H.M. Ardalan and Mr. M.M. Mahmoudi.**

Mr. Mahmoudi summarizing the two former meetings said that during the first meeting they discussed arguments between architects and artists. The artists believed that architects made ugly Tehran with their design so they had to intervene to make it beautiful and the architects insisted that their interventions made the city uglier than before. Making an urban planning based analyze Mr. Mahmoudi talking about Tehran morphological characteristics and differences, the difference between day and night population, he mentioned the longest street in the world, located in Tehran , that goes from east to west of the city, how many times Iran has changed its capital. To begin the discussion he asked Mr. Moini if the city management had the right to live the planning of Tehran out of reach of planners.

Mr. Moini answered to the question saying that it's a long time that Tehran is not planned by urban planners and it's in the hands of people that are absolutely far from a professional approach. He said that urban planning has a recent history in Iran and regarding Tehran its first master plan is dated 1971 then 1992 and the latest of 2008. He asserted that in Tehran only the highways network has been realized and the rest has remained on the paper.

Mr. Moini mentioned the names of the consultants that have worked on Tehran master plan that are the American Victor Green-Farmanfarmayan, the second is Atec and the last one Boum Sazegan. In all cases what is clear is that many decisions have not been realized.

The following speaker was Mr. Torabi that talked about the environmental conditions in Tehran, where natural spaces are very limited and the citizens can not enjoy their rights to live in a nature friendly city, like many other Iranian cities. The efforts that the urban management makes is to increase the level of habitability in Tehran in this regard.

Talking about one of the main problems that such concentration of population has caused Mr. Torabi talked about the water provision, that in one hand sees the growth of demand and in the other the continuous decrease of water sources that can be supplied.

Continuing the speech Mr. Ardalan talked about the history how Tehran appeared, saying that at the beginning it was the cove of thieves and out of law people and it was during the Qajar king Aqa Mohammad Khan that the area has been walled becoming the nucleus of the actual Tehran,

that as a capital city has not none of the characteristics that a city must have in order to host millions of inhabitants. He asserted that it's a disaster that about 20 %of the Iranian population is concentrated in the region of Tehran.

Talking about King Aqa Mohammad Khan, Mr. Mahmoudi expressed the idea that he wanted the urban planners to plan and create the new capital, but we were late and unorganized to achieve this goal.

Mr. Shahabian talked asserted that in his opinion that the time that cities aare designed and planned only by a group of architects and urban planners is over and today architects and urban planners must be part of a larger group formed by sociologists, economists and environmental experts. He said that during the last master plan works these professions were included in the different work groups. But in his opinion the reality is that none of these studies ensured the desired results. The principal problem of Tehran is environmental-geological and in case the situation continuous in the same direction the catastrophic results must be faced in the future. Mr. Shahabian believes the policy making of the urban programs are made in other spheres that are far from being professional-scientific based, the city is growing without a clear program and coordination. To decide the sort of the city are power and richness centers, that are pushing the city to grow in length and height in every direction.

Mr. Mahmoudi wanted Mr. Samiei about Tehran first master plan. Mr. Samiei explained that the main problem at that time was the growth of the population in a city that would not be able to accept such flow, but the policy makers arranged the programs in order to reach their desired goals, promising that the crisis of population in Tehran would never occur. But the result was that because of various interferences in the city many new neighborhoods were created and the industries that had to be installed in other areas of country were concentrated in the urban areas of Tehran, creating problems that still today the urban management is unable to solve them.

Continuing the speech Mr. Mahmoudi expressed the idea that the problems and wrong decisions taken in 1971, were repeated during the approval of the last master plan in 2008. In this regard he wanted Mr. Moini the express his opinion.

Mr. Moini said that it's difficult to talk about Tehran problems in a such limited time, but he believes the main problem of Tehran is its territorial extension that has been consumed from long time ago. He talked about the decision made in the master plan to fix Tehran population to 8.2 millions but the former president disagreed with this number fixing it to the number 9.1. In his opinion it was unbelievable that a person could take such decisions.

He continued his talk saying that it's a period that he is collaborating with the mayor of Mashad. There they had the problem to "clean up" the areas adjacent to the Holy Shrine and their solution was very simple, they just expelled the local population, pushing them to the suburbs of the city, without creating the necessary conditions to ensure the minimum needs of the population. Mr.

Moini asserted that in Iran often the policy makers try to cancel artificially the existence of a problem, rather than find the appropriate solutions.

Talking about the management of Tehran, he said that we believe that it's Tehran municipality to manage the city, but in reality there are 29 other organizations that in a parallel way are managing the city and until this situation continuous and there is no coordination between the managerial organizations, the situation will continue to exist and the problems will deepen.

Mr. Moini talked about the lack of expert forces that must be involved in the management of the city of Tehran, but at the same time there is an army of so called experts that are occupying important positions in the management system of Tehran.

Mr. Shahabian tried to focus on a problem that in his opinion is vital for the identification of Tehran. He asserted that in many case the problems that were created was because the consultants didn't do their duties as they should. Their interests were personal and economic, ignoring the professional responsibility that they had toward the city and the people. In his opinion most of the experts and managers are capable to identify and talk about problems, but nobody is really able to propose solutions and real programs for example for the next 50 years. He thinks that everybody is thinking for himself, ignoring that there are also future generations that must inherit something from this city and create something. It seems that everybody is interested to consume as more as possible, living nothing to who is coming next.

The last question that Mr. Mahmoudi posed was if Tehran was a Megapolis or was just a large city with its infinite problems that make the life of the citizens impossible to be enjoyed. Most of the participants to the roundtable agreed that the building was made on the wrong basis from the beginning and it was difficult to put order to the actual chaotic situation. The last message was that the urban managerial system should be reviewed, until everything is not lost definitely.