

# ECUMENOPOLIS: GLOBAL COLLABORATION AND ASIAN RENAISSANCE: QUANTITY SURVEYOR'S ROLE

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Ecumenopolis is a fictitious city, a single planet-wide city, where all inhabitants of the Earth live. Science fiction writers have long dreamed of a completely urbanized planet - a planet that is no longer "natural" and consisting of only a vast city. Ecumenopolis can be considered as a development arising out of urbanization and the growth of population, transport needs and human network. Ecumenopolis is overlooked as a city where the technology is used as an enabler and solution. We continue to witness the way technology progresses and changes the ways in which work is produced and maintained. The move will be first from metropolis to megalopolis and then to Ecumenopolis. Since this evolution is inevitable, it is important to start planning now itself for the Ecumenopolis to make it fully livable and comfortable for the mankind. With the concept of high urbanization, concerns on spatial development and related planning efforts, dynamics of modernization, utilizing information and communication technology, problems specific to urban areas such as flooding, garbage disposal, global warming and air pollution, fundamental changes in lifestyles, consumption behavior and production conditions do arise. Under circumstances, global collaboration will be very much necessary for the type of urban development envisaged. This is in other words, a global consensus as to how people should live in 'one city'. In global collaboration, people across the world communicate with one another for learning, knowledge sharing etc., using on line tools. Professionals can play

a significant role in global collaboration to fix problems associated with the setting up of the Ecumenopolis. Complex interactions among human settlements, ICT and collaboration of professionals will help to build new urban spaces and landscapes of innovation and promote economic development, cultural interactions, political dynamics and social inequalities within cities and urban regions. Quantity surveyor as a professional involved in the built environment can help to properly manage the cost and value dimensions involved in city development. The future quantity surveyor will indeed be a smart technologist, who can collaborate with other professionals to develop integrated urbanization (Ecumenopolis) by simultaneously playing the roles of a BIM manager, cost manager, dispute manager, sustainability and cost coordinator, value management team leader, carbon accountant, data manager, interpreter, and manipulator. With this increased and diversified roles the quantity surveyors have to inculcate the skills and competencies expected of him in an Ecumenopolis. Professional bodies will also have to have a fresh look at their professional boundaries. Redefining of the role, skills and competencies of quantity surveyors is required to develop in themselves in ecological and political awareness, notions of public good, epistemological feelings at least provisionally, self-reflection and a knowledge on networking and information security and people management as they are to ensure a livable Ecumenopolis.