Regional planning deals with the **efficient placement of land use activities, infrastructure and settlement growth across a larger area of land than an individual city or town**.

**Salient Features....**

- It is the science of efficient placement of infrastructure and zoning for the sustainable growth of a region.

- Regional Development addresses region-wide environmental, social and economic issues which may require a regional focus.

"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" (Friedman, 1978-'79)
Need for Regional Planning

There is a wider variety of reasons that can necessitate the government to engage in regional development:

1. The existence of separate or different cultures and political identities. Regional planning becomes a response to strong feeling of regionalism as well as an element of cohesion.

2. Functional problems which are spatially manifested e.g.
   - Problem of urban regions related to rapid urbanization, urban sprawl, population growth etc.
   - Problem of depressed industrial and rural areas suffering from economic malaise.
3. Facilitate national and regional socio-economic integration by bringing regions to be active participants in development effort.

4. Mobilization of locals human and financial resources, governments and donors towards creation of economic opportunities in different regions (partnerships)

5. Provision of essential link between national and local level plans e.g. information giving

6. Regional planning provide policy guiding framework to both local and plans.
7. Information base for national/local plans regarding resource and potentials and priorities of a region- SWOT

8. Provide essential strategic cross-cutting infrastructure linkages to facilitate inter and intra regional flow of trade, communication...

9. Responds more effectively respond best to the needs of the regional and local communities than the national dev. plan.

10. Promotes community based development strategy and opportunities for people to participate more directly in development and project implementation process.
Types of Regional Planning

- Physical Planning
- Allocative Planning
- Economic Planning
- Innovative Planning
- Indicative Planning
- Imperative Planning
Physical Regional Planning
• Related to the ordering of space – landuse, infrastructure network, new town/ settlement
• A basis for development control mechanism
• Ex: Planning of a new town by Urban Development Agency (UDA)

Economic Regional Planning
• Focuses on economic structure of an area & its overall economic performance
• Related to resource allocation and distribution
• Example: Resource planning by State Economic Planning Unit

Allocative Regional Planning
• Emphasis on conflict solving (in line with policy changes)
• Also a control mechanism: based on functions and Priorities
• Controls resource allocation when there are changes in financial/ economic policies
• Example: New Economic Plan (NEP) and development of public housing to allow the low income group have the opportunity to own a house
Innovative Regional Planning
• Not just look at function and efficiency, but also involve improvement to the system
• Renews ideas & allows changes
• Example: Development of LRT system in Kuala Lumpur to overcome the problem of vehicle overcrowding or the opening of small medium industries in the rural areas to create more job opportunities

Indicative Regional Planning
• Advisory in nature, involve general guidelines
• Introduce basic economic activities and establish modern facilities throughout the states
• Economically improve the less developed states

Imperative Regional Planning
• Order through Act and specific Guidelines
• Example: Town & Country Planning Act 1974; Malaysia