

INTERPLAN

APA

American Planning Association
International Division

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the International Division
of the American Planning Association

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Dalian, China, 2008 International Planning Congress

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Introduction

By Michael Weaver AICP

Welcome to the current edition of *INTERPLAN*, the newsletter of the International Division of the APA. Before introducing this issue's content, we would like you to know that we have held two successful international webinars in recent months on the topics of German green communities and strategies for addressing the challenges of urbanizing areas in Ghana. Both events were well attended and were approved for CM credits by AICP, and more will be planned for 2009. Also, the International Division is now on Facebook – please join us online and make use of this digital gathering space. And finally, stay tuned about a potential networking event early next year for members in the D.C. area along with members of the Cities Alliance and other international development organizations, including the World Bank.

In this issue of *INTERPLAN*, we have a report from the recent APA Divisions' Council Leadership Meeting in Washington, D.C., an overview of the International Division's Strategic Plan, an essay on the global financial crisis and its impact on the future of international planning, an article from the International Planning Congress, *Urban Growth without Sprawl*, several announcements for upcoming conferences, a report on the International Division's Young Planners initiative, and a calendar of upcoming events of interest, among other planning stories and events from around the globe.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *INTERPLAN*, and best wishes for a great 2009!

Cheers,
Michael Weaver, AICP
Secretary-Treasurer, APA International Division



Telecommunications

International Communications Technology
By Ric Stephens

Communication is often an obstacle for planners working with multinational clients, agencies and projects. Telephone connectivity is often both expensive and poor quality especially in developing countries. The ability to use your personal computer (Voice over Internet Protocol) to connect with international contacts is a quantum leap in telecommunications. Here are several companies offering Internet telephony:

Skype is software that allows users to make telephone calls over the Internet. Calls to other users of the service and to free-of-charge numbers are free, while calls to other landlines and mobile phones can be made for a fee. Additional features include instant messaging, file transfer and video conferencing. It was created by entrepreneurs **Niklas Zennström, Janus Friis**, and a team of software developers based in Tallinn, Estonia. It was acquired by eBay in September 2005 for \$2.6 billion.

Vonage promotes itself as "Vonage the Broadband Phone Company" in the U.S. and as "Leading the Internet Phone Revolution." Up until August 2007, Vonage held the most subscribers at nearly 2.6 million subscriber lines, **Comcast** has now surpassed them and has the most VOIP subscribers. Vonage has completed well over 5 billion calls. Vonage has led the Voice over Broadband (VoBB), or Broadband Phone industry through its aggressive consumer marketing in the United States, Canada, UK and other countries globally.

In 2002, 8x8 relaunched itself as a VoIP service provider under the **Packet8** brand. In 2003, the Company launched its first consumer videophone services on the Packet8 network. In 2004, the company became the first VoIP service provider to offer replacement, E-911 services to its subscribers. It also launched a suite of business services called Packet8 Virtual Office. [Wikipedia]



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APA Student Committee

APA Student Committee Forming to Advise APA-ID Leadership

APA-ID has the second highest percentage of student members among all APA Divisions – just over 22 percent (the highest percent are members of the Indigenous Planning Division, at 40 percent). Creating meaningful opportunities for student member involvement in APA-ID has been a goal of the Division leadership this year.

Recently, the Division established a Student Committee in keeping with this goal. The committee will provide input and guidance to the Division leadership on program and activities that serve the interests of students. Also, the committee annually will elect a representative who will advise the Division leadership and attend the division leadership meetings.



In 2007, APA President **Bob Hunter** appointed the Young Planners Group Task Force (YPG), in order to address the growing needs of young planners within the APA as well as provide a forum for young planners to be a resource to the organization.

APA has recognized that great shifts are occurring in the profession. There is a need to reach out to the next generation of planners as a service to these members, to sustain the organization, to provide services to a changing professional demographic, and to cultivate the next generation of leaders.

The report is available at:
www.planning.org/features/2008/newprofessionals.htm

APA Forms Young Planners Task Force

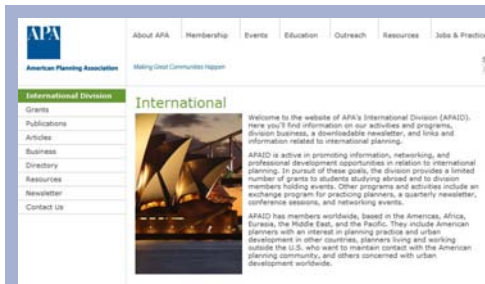
By Megan Cummings AICP and Reyna Alorro

In between the students and the upper-management professionals, there's a cross-section of APA members who are relatively new to full-time planning work. They are the leaders of tomorrow, and they are often from different generations than the leaders of today. The YPG is an advisory group to the APA Board with an eye and an ear toward issues of importance to young planners. After several conference calls, we developed a [report to APA's Board of Directors](#) that identifies needs, strategies, and other things vital to the future of APA and the next generation of leaders.

Part of our charge is to identify ways to get young planners more involved in the profession both in leadership roles and among our local chapters and sections. There are many ways young planners can become more involved in their profession. The YPGs also see a greater role for networking within our generation to discuss issues important to us such as career development, moving into management positions, and balancing careers and families.

We want to hear from you! If you are interested in helping to shape the future of the planning profession, if you want to be more involved, or if you want to be a part of a support group for young professionals like you, let us know. Some of our goals for the upcoming year include organizing a mentoring program, forming local and regional groups of young planners, and finding ways to be more active in national APA programming and policy decisions. **Reyna Alorro** is a member of the APA International Division. Feel free to contact **Megan Cummings**, Chair of the Young Planners Group, (plannermegan@hotmail.com) or Reyna Alorro (alorror@hpd.nyc.gov) or and let us know if you are interested in becoming more involved. We can't wait to hear from you.





APA International Division Website

American Planning Association International Division Website

www.planning.org/divisions/international

APA-ID Strategic Plan 2008

A Report from the International Division

Preface

The International Division seeks proactive development and integration of the planning profession on an international basis through strategic partnerships, professional networks and communication of professional developments and projects. This document serves as the Strategic Planning Work Group (also referred to as the 'Work Plan' and 'Strategic Plan', all of which are used in an interchangeable manner) has been developed in conjunction with various International Division members as well as the leadership committee for the purposes of providing a comprehensive Work Plan. During the spring of 2008, a new leadership committee was elected and appointed lead to the International Division; among the initial tasks of the entering 2008 committee, was the task to develop a progressive plan to identify key recommendations that would enhance the Division in terms of breadth and depth with a long-term horizon. The International Division has assessed the needs and desires of its members, which was collected via an effective survey instrument. This survey has aided the committee in developing the framework for the 2008 Strategic Plan and further recognizing its responsibilities to meet and exceed the two-fold obligation to its members and the American Planning Association.

Issues the Executive Committee Sought to Address

Within the context of recommendation from previous

committees as well input provided from current members, the International Division committee sought to address a number of issues going forward:

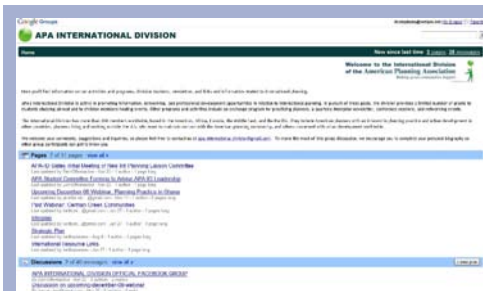
- ① Enhancement of membership value
- ① Integration of international planning groups
- ① Increase quality and quantity of CM credit offerings
- ① Improve membership survey results year-over-year
- ① Operate as a cohesive and responsive committee
- ① Provide effective leadership for the betterment of the Division
- ① Establish forward thinking goals and recommendations for the current and future committees

Task Force Process

The members of the International elected the current Division committee, which was effectively appointed to office in June of 2008. The following members were elected to office and hold the relevant offices:

Beth S. Offenbacher as Chair, **Michael Weaver** as Secretary/Treasurer, **Charles Christopher Kemper** as Vice Chair-At Large, **Jennifer Venema** as Vice Chair-Special Projects, **Keith Hall** as Vice Chair-Communications and **Matthew Flynn** as International Exchange Program Coordinator. The committee convenes via conference call once a month to review ongoing operations and forthcoming plans within the International Division. Additionally, the Committee Chair or an appointed committee member attends frequent calls with the Division

(Continued on page 5)



APA International Division

Google Group

<http://groups.google.com/group/interplan>

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Council along with other divisions of the APA to maintain and build an ongoing relation within the organization. The International Division's recommendations are presented below.

Recommendation 1: Enhance membership value

Input gathered from the survey indicated that most Division members were neutral or somewhat satisfied with membership in the Division, leaving some room for improvement. Most members indicated an interest in keeping up with global events and issues in planning as their primary reason for joining the Division, and members are most interested in networking, web-based education (CM), and the INTERPLAN newsletter as priorities for the Division.

Given satisfaction levels, as well as open-ended survey comments, members suggest that the underlying and primary recommendation is to improve general value to members. This may be accomplished through multiple methods, means and mediums. Currently, the International Division in the midst of improving membership value, which may or may not be encompassed in the recommendation points below. Key outcomes include:

- ① Devise creative methods to embrace and improve member involvement and participation in webinars, article submission, inter-member and intra-divisional correspondence, etc.
- ① Develop unique and “out-of-the box” program initiatives that offer creative methods of meeting and exceeding the needs, desires and expectations of the members as they relate to knowledge development/sharing and network cultivation
- ① Maintain and improve production of various medium outlets to members in order to improve

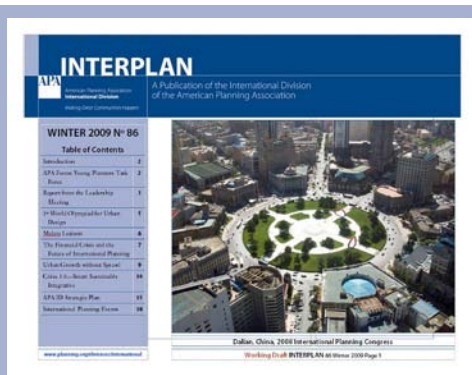
member connections with the international community via articles, contacts, employment opportunities, special initiatives, etc.

Recommendation 2: Improve the image of the Division

Improving the image of the Division has direct benefits in terms of marketability, membership numbers and value and fiscal health of the Division. On the one hand, the International Division “competes” with other divisions of APA for the attention and interest of members who are likely to join only one or two divisions, if they are even inclined to join one at all. In short, divisions must show “value for money” to members who join the divisions. On the other hand, the International Division must consider whether it can engage international planners who are not members of APA; this challenge is unique to the International Division and would fulfill the desire of members to engage in international networks of planners. It is therefore imperative that the Division partakes in activities that will bolster its image in the international planning community as well as within the APA. Key outcomes include:

- ① Achieve quantifiable levels of recognition within APA's Divisions Council as the result of implementing quality member programs and services (e.g. an APA divisional award)
- ① Develop strategic relationships with the International planning community that will include facets of the public and private sectors
- ① Improve the quality of current medium outlets (e.g. webinar service and the Division's INTERPLAN newsletter)
- ① Capitalize on additional marketing opportunities as they may arise

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Official Newsletter of the American Planning Association International Division

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Recommendation 3: Maintain and improve fiscal responsibility

In order to create value to members through various programs and activities, it is vital that the International Division govern fiscal responsibilities diligently. The survey included questions that would help the Division leaders prioritize both funding and the time they spend as volunteers. Key outcomes include:

- ① Achieve fiscal responsibility by reducing operational costs of the Division where possible. (e.g., this may include finding innovative methods to reduce traveling, conferencing and consulting costs.)
- ① Enhance revenues via traditional and non-traditional measures. Traditional revenue sources may include increasing number of members by a pre-determined percentage annually. Non-traditional measures may include a variety of methods such as corporate sponsorships, selling ad space in the Division's *INTERPLAN* newsletter, donations and fundraising, differentiating services – creating multiple membership levels, etc.
- ① Establish international partnerships with governmental, inter-governmental and private sector firms
- ① Operate as the communication platform for the international planning industry
- ① Produce an annual fiscal report that assesses the most previous fiscal year as well as projections for the forthcoming fiscal year

Recommendation 4: Establish measurable objectives to complete in the short-term, mid-term and long-term.

The International Division has many several goals, but all goals should be achieved in stride. In order to

achieve the lofty recommendations set forth in this document, it is necessary to establish measurable objectives that can be achieved on an annual basis. Within the context of this recommendation's intentions, each objective should be set forth on an implementation schedule that highlights the said objective, timeframes of expected completion and the over-arching goal that is being addressed. This will ensure that the recommendations are effectively addressed and completed. Key outcomes include:

- ① Annually convene a member committee to review and develop recommendations for short-term, mid-term and long-term goals for consideration by the Division leadership. Consult with the membership at large about said goals before finalizing them.

Recommendation 5: Annual review and edit of recommendations

The needs and wants of the membership base as well as the ability of the committee will likely change over the course of time. Therefore, it is important that the recommendations are re-visited annually and updated as needed. An annual survey is a key element of measuring both Division interests and progress of the leadership committee.

Conclusion

The above recommendations comprise necessary steps to improve the International Division throughout the immediate and long term. The recommendations need to be considering a "living document", which will require future adjustments as the opportunities and constraints of the Division change and are fluid with time.



United Nations Human Settlements Programme

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, is the United Nations agency for human settlements. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.

Towns and cities are growing today at unprecedented rates setting the social, political, cultural and environmental trends of the world, both good and bad. In 1950, one-third of the world's people lived in cities. Just 50 years later, this rose to one-half and will continue to grow to two-thirds, or 6 billion people, by 2050. *Cities are now home to half of humankind.*

Cities are the hubs of much national production and consumption - economic and social processes that generate wealth and opportunity. But they also create disease, crime, pollution, poverty and social unrest. In many cities, especially in developing countries, slum dwellers number more than 50 per cent of the population and have little or no access to shelter, water, and sanitation, education or health services. It is essential that policy-makers understand the power of the city as a catalyst for national development. Sustainable urbanization is one of the most pressing challenges facing the global community in the 21st century.

www.unhabitat.org

1st World Olympiad for Urban Design

By Dr. Anna Tibaijuka and Christine Auclair



Dr. Anna Tibaijuka

gated communities on the one hand, and run-down neighborhoods or slums on the other. In many cases, urban design processes are still based on colonial era planning laws, which encourage spatial segregation and fail to reflect the needs and priorities of urban residents in an inclusive manner.

Urban space has remained throughout history a strong symbol and means of expression of power, wealth, belief and identity. The good governance of urban space is at the crossroad of the major social challenges of our time, and it is the ethical responsibility of our political leaders and of urban planners and designers to help make our cities socially inclusive, environmentally sound,

Many of today's world's cities are expanding in an extremely rapid and anarchic manner, with little concern for public services, public infrastructure and public space. These problems are particularly acute in the cities of the developing world where the ever widening gulf between rich and poor is often symbolized by the development of exclusive

Urban space has remained throughout history a strong symbol and means of expression of power, wealth, belief and identity

economically vibrant, culturally meaningful, and safe for all.

As the leading United Nations Agency in the urban sector, UN-HABITAT is pleased to support this initiative and hope that it will contribute to revitalize the global debate on the role of urban planning and urban design in the new context of globalization, rapid urbanization and climate change.

I wish the organizers full success in organizing the first World Olympiad for Urban Design.

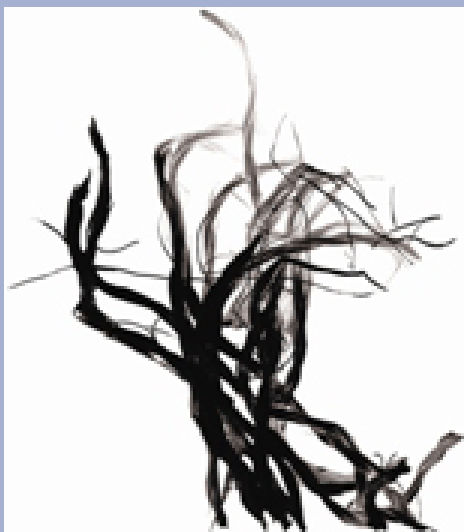
Dr. Anna Tibaijuka
Executive Director of UN-HABITAT
Under Secretary of the United Nations

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme is currently organizing the 1st World Olympiad for Urban

Design (WOUD). This international event is scheduled to take place in October 2009 and is meant to promote urban sustainability through quality of space and design creativity.

The objective for the World Olympiad for Urban Design is to address the global and local challenges posed by the rapid growth of cities through innovative and creative urban design. These include the well known social, cultural, economic and environmental challenges such as urban decay, social

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WOUD

1st World Olympiad for Urban Design
www.woud2009.org

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exclusion and environmental degradation. They also include the recent focus on climate change, rising food and fuel prices, and peace and security. These challenges have compelled UN-Habitat to focus its work for the next five years on “sustainable urban development” to be spearheaded by a Global Campaign on Sustainable Urbanization.

The World Olympiad for Urban Design is conceived as a major contribution to this Campaign and as a means of encouraging new approaches to building peaceful, comprehensive, and sustainable urban spaces through art and creativity, innovation and participation.

The Olympiad was originally to be hosted in Persepolis, Iran, a rich historical and archeological site and an icon of culture and civilization. The venue is currently being reevaluated and may be located in Oxford, United Kingdom.

www.woud2009.org











Earth at Night

Muleta www.muleta.org



Muleta, the multilingual and multimedia lexicon, is a European encyclopedia of town planning and housing. Intended to be developed by the professional and scientific community, it enables tracing of concepts, tools and procedures in use in the participating countries.

Term	decentralisation		Gender	Abbreviation
Country	gbr		Usage indicator	
<hr/>				
Definition				
<p>A general term given to a process of outward movement of homes, workplaces, shops or other facilities, generally from large, old urban settlements to new suburban areas on their peripheries, in ribbon development along transport corridors, or to other, non-contiguous locations. The process is generally accompanied by a reduction in overall density of occupation of space (but does not have to be). The term has also been used to refer to processes of administrative reorganisation (e.g. moving functions from central to local government, or from a local government town hall or central department to a neighbourhood office or unit or from the capital to other parts of the country).</p>				
<hr/>				
Related term(s)		dispersal;recentralisation;urbanisation;counter-urbanisation;containment;		
<hr/>				
Source of definition				
<hr/>				
Literal translations		Equivalent term(s)		
	décentralisation	Décentralisation		
	Dezentralisierung			
	Decentrando	Decentrando		
	Descentralización			
				
	Descentralizare			
		Децентрализация		



The World Bank

IBRD & IDA: Working for a World Free of Poverty

The World Bank

The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. We are not a bank in the common sense. We are made up of two unique development institutions owned by 185 member countries—the [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development \(IBRD\)](#) and the [International Development Association \(IDA\)](#).

Each institution plays a different but collaborative role to advance the vision of an inclusive and sustainable globalization. The IBRD focuses on middle income and creditworthy poor countries, while IDA focuses on the poorest countries in the world. Together we provide low-interest loans, interest-free credits and grants to developing countries for a wide array of purposes that include investments in education, health, public administration, infrastructure, financial and private sector development, agriculture, and environmental and natural resource management.

www.worldbank.org

The Financial Crisis and the Future of International Planning

By Christopher Kemper

It is widely expected that the effects of the current and unprecedented financial crisis will have significant impacts on the global economy and eventually the international planning community. As financial institutions continue to de-leverage their balance sheets and reduce risk exposure, international development projects are likely to experience contraction in both the private and public sectors. More specifically, potential projects that have direct exposure to under capitalized financial institutions as well as projects that maintain long lead times and have relatively high risk/return ratios will experience difficulty obtaining financing support. In the forthcoming year the forecast for global development is grim at best. However, the nature of planners is not to focus on the short- and mid-term, rather it is to envision and develop plans for the long-term time frame. Thus, the current financial crisis could bode extremely well for the international planning community in the long-term as more emphasis will eventually be placed on necessary and sound projects with direct benefits to the public and private sector such as large scale development, energy and transportation oriented initiatives.

Currently, global governments have directed efforts towards the stabilization of financial institutions rather than towards large scale, public projects; this policy directive generates a higher employment multiplier effect compared to the project-based employment multiplier effect that stems directly from publicly funded projects. The effects of the money pumped into the economy via this route will experience a time-lag effect as institutions maintain tighter

lending policies to avoid leveraging-up their balance sheets. However, institutions will lend money to the private sector but with more stringent qualification hurdles. This will hinder private sector projects and public-private sector initiatives in the short-term, but will yield dividends in the mid- to long-run. Meanwhile, local public sector projects are likely to experience significant budgetary issues as home prices continue to diminish and the tax-base is similarly decreased. Project funding will have to decrease unless there are significant legislative changes executed in order to mitigate potential problems or local municipalities are willing to incur deficits.

On a broader international level, it is possible that planning projects in underdeveloped nations will incur more significant impacts of the financial fallout. This is largely attributed to the inherent risks that are imbedded in underdeveloped nations from a project financing perspective. Currency, political and sovereign risks require a premium return to attract private sector institutions to most projects in such countries; this risk premium is an additional cost to borrowers who are attempting to attract investment from already reluctant lenders. As firms have become more risk averse, the return hurdle has increased to an extent that will impede the development of many projects without public sector financial aid. This problem is compounded as under developed countries lack the borrowing capacity to persevere the financial crisis as well as developed countries.

As governments acknowledge the credit crunch, there

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G-20

The Group of Twenty (G-20) Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors was established in 1999 to bring together systemically important industrialized and developing economies to discuss key issues in the global economy. The inaugural meeting of the G-20 took place in Berlin, on December 15–16, 1999, hosted by German and Canadian finance ministers.

The G-20 is an informal forum that promotes open and constructive discussion between industrial and emerging-market countries on key issues related to global economic stability. By contributing to the strengthening of the international financial architecture and providing opportunities for dialogue on national policies, international co-operation, and international financial institutions, the G-20 helps to support growth and development across the globe

www.g20.org

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will be monetary and fiscal policy efforts to mitigate an extensive recession. Central Banks are likely to reduce interest rates in effort to “unlock” the credit crunch; however, such there is no guarantee that Central Bank cuts will be passed directly to consumers and borrowers as private banks may attempt to internalize the rate cuts and “shore-up” their losses. Regardless, there will be a lag-effect, which may delay the positive benefits received by the “real economy” (e.g. employment and consumption) for a period of two fiscal quarters or longer.

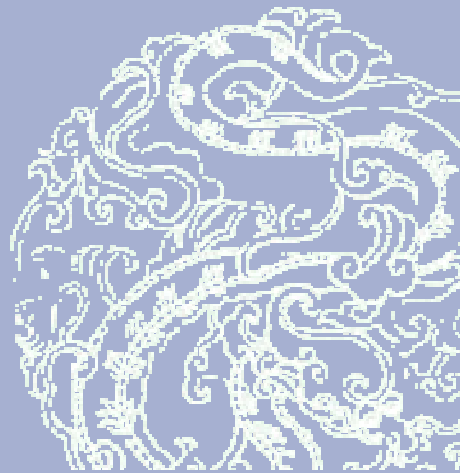
G20 nations continue to incur significant deficits that have exceeded USD\$10 trillion, which has led to wide-spread speculation of a forthcoming reduction in government expenditure; for example, the United State’s deficit passed the USD\$2 trillion threshold for the first time in October 2008, which will lead to expenditure reductions under a fiscally responsible Obama administration before another crisis, such as a currency crisis, arises. It is difficult to assess the projects and programs that will receive cost cutting measures, but it is unlikely that such program reductions will take place in the United States, especially given the democratic party-dominant political landscape. It is important that two, historically expensive pieces of legislation were passed that are largely re-

sponsible for the current deficit and forthcoming fiscal years are unlikely to experience deficits to a similar extent.

Despite the challenges that face the global economy, there is reason to forecast benefits to the international planning community in the mid- to long-term. As the current economic condition continues to forecast a grim future, there will be a point in time when governments intervene in a different manner as suggested by Keynesian economists, a widely held economic philosophy that suggests an increase in public spending curtails potentially deep and long recessionary periods. This policy strategy was most notably utilized during the great depression with President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s large and expansive program initiatives that further defined the need for urban design and planning. A similar policy initiative has been brought forward as international governments recognize the potential impacts of the current financial crisis; governments are once again prepared to incur high deficits in order to stabilize the unemployment rate throughout the forthcoming recessionary period; the result will be public, public-private and private investment in large scale projects that require the knowledge of the planning profession.



G-20 Finance Ministers



Urban Growth without Sprawl A way Towards Sustainable Urbanization

44th ISOCARP Congress
Dalian, China

19-23 September 2008

www.isocarp.org

Urban Growth without Sprawl: A Way Towards Sustainable Urbanization

By Pierre Laconte, Ismael Fernandez, Ric Stephens, et al



The theme of the 44th International Planning Congress refers to one of those grand goals of city planning that – as so many other city planning promises – is in striking contrast with the reality of rapid urban development all over the world. For most city planners (and other critical minds as well), sprawl clearly has a negative connotation, conjuring up images of uncontrolled residential subdivisions and ribbon development, square miles of unused and derelict land, wasteful and unplanned conversion of valuable agricultural soil, clogged-up roads and expensive but under-used utility lines.

Other terms come to mind, such as the more factual “peri-urban development”, or the joking analogy of scrambled eggs (or Mexican omelets) as a graphical image of a contemporary city region. It is now almost impossible to draw a line between town and country – unlike in ancient times when the urban form used to resemble a boiled egg (the walled city) and later (when industrialization had begun), a fried egg. (Cedric Price and then William Mitchell invented and used the delightful egg morphology to make their point). Not everyone finds sprawl harmful and unwanted though. Some economists have even discovered certain advantages in unlimited urban growth, and political scientists would disagree whether such large sprawling cities are necessarily un-

-governable or not.

Much of the now common unrestrained physical form of urban development, and with it, the economic and social implications of a sprawling urban continuum, appears to be the inevitable consequence of increasing automobile ownership and use, and even more so, of the global market forces that are at work in our urbanizing world, along with rampant rural-urban migration, and an increasingly unregulated private sector. The global fifty-percent line in urbanization has already been crossed, and in Asia, it will very soon be reached.

China, as the largest country with a very rapidly growing urbanization rate, has reached enormous proportions of challenges, but also of opportunities, in its mega-urban regions where an overwhelmingly large proportion of national wealth is generated. In contrast with an earlier era in the People’s Republic of China when everything, including urban growth, was claimed to be firmly under control, the Chinese government now finds it close to impossible to “control” urban growth. So in China, as much as in India or any other fast developing country, “cities without sprawl” would seem to amount to wishful thinking or un-attainable goals, or – to invoke

(Continued on page 12)



International Society of City and Regional Planners

ISOCARP is a global association of experienced professional planners. It was founded in 1965 in a bid to bring together recognized and highly qualified planners in an international network. The ISOCARP network consists of both individual and institutional members of more than 70 countries all over the world. ISOCARP is a non-governmental organization recognized by the UN, UNCHS and the Council of Europe and has a formal consultative status with UNESCO.

The objectives of ISOCARP include the improvement of planning practice through the creation of a global and active network of planners. ISOCARP encourages the exchange between planners, promotes the profession in all aspects, stimulates research, improves education and training, increases information and awareness on major planning issues.

City and Regional Planners act in spatial processes and are consultants to key decision-makers. Their task is to propose or support spatial interventions and plans on behalf of the society in general or specific actors. Planners combine knowledge, science, design and strategy and are used to work in joint ventures and multi-disciplinary teams.

www.isocarp.org

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another image that is hard to pin down – an important dimension of the idealistic goal of “sustainable city development”. At any rate, growth and proportions of mega-cities in the so-called developing countries are unprecedented; they are much greater than those in industrialized countries in history or at present; and the global environmental and social effects of urban sprawl are beyond imagination.

Is it possible at all to plan and govern such developments? Do we not have the right kind of strategic concepts that would lend themselves as powerful instruments for achieving those “cities without sprawl”? Some of them are, in random order – the sustainable city, or perhaps the livable city (which is even more difficult to define), the compact city (straightforward as a physical concept but hard to do in practice), national urban development strategies for better regional distribution of urban growth, regional networking, public transport (including the new miracle of bus transit, or perhaps retro-fitting of public transport systems), brown field development as well as urban conservation and regeneration, and several other concepts. Are they effective in practice, or do they just reflect utopian thinking, as much as the imperative of “cities without sprawl” would seem to do?

Dalian, the host city, is a large industrial and commercial city that would offer a rich laboratory of proven and rejected strategies to learn from. China certainly has much to show in terms of urban development lessons, as much as China wishes to learn the lessons of other countries.

Excerpts

[All Congress papers available at www.isocarp.net]

The Economic View on Urban Sprawl in Decentralized Metropolitan Areas and Its Hinterland

By Dirk Engelke, Torsten Beck

Driving forces of urban sprawl in metropolitan areas and the hinterland

Not only the driving forces of urban sprawl are different in metropolitan areas and the hinterland, the structure of investments, their type of investors and their type of investment is diverging. And on the other hand the organization of (public) services is different. So in the end it's the question of private and public needs and burden—sharing. Due to the demographic changes in the surveyed project area there will be—at least at the medium term—a concentration of population in the metropolitan areas and shrinking in the Hinterland. This has an enormous effect on the economics of burden-sharing between private and public and e.g. infrastructure systems. This is especially due to the structure of providers of (public) services. In the metropolitan areas (with many clients) there are mainly privately organized providers and the hinterland (with fewer clients) the services are organized by public providers and in the end paid by the public.

Cambridge, England — Planning for knowledge-led growth in a tightly constrained Sub Region

By Chris Gossop

Evaluation

While it has been a long time coming, the signs are that Cambridge now has a planning framework able to cope with the combined pressures of high tech development and the provision of the necessary homes. For the most part, those homes will be in reasonably accessible locations where the new

(Continued on page 13)



Urban Planning Society of China

The Urban Planning Society of China (UPSC), voluntarily incorporated by urban planners across the country in 1956, is the only legally registered academic and professional organization at state level. UPSC is devoted to organizing international and national academic activities involving urban planning issues, promoting planning knowledge and technologies, providing consulting service to governmental agencies at all levels, publishing planning books, academic papers and other publications, protecting the lawful rights of urban planners, conducting professional development, granting honor and award to distinguished individuals or organizations.

UPSC has four working committees, i.e. organizational, youth, publishing and academic, and eleven academic committees, i.e. regional planning and urban economy, residential area planning, planning and design of landscape and environment, planning and design of historic and cultural cities, application of new techniques, small town planning, overseas urban planning, engineering planning, urban design, city ecological planning and construction, urban safety and disaster prevention planning. The Society's administrative function stays at the Secretariat with three subordinate offices, i.e. Editorial Department, Consulting Department and Liaison Office.

www.planning.org.cn

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occupants will have a choice of transport mode and not reliant entirely upon the use of the car. For many, the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway will add an innovative new transport option offering assured competitive journey times.

For the future, much will depend upon the details of the schemes that come forward and can be negotiated. For those developments on the edge of Cambridge, for example, it will be important to secure the provision of strategic landscaping appropriate to the setting of this historic city. For Northstowe, the potential is there for it to become that prototype eco city, and a test bed for the green design of the future.

But this will require great commitment on the part of both the developers (who will need to look to the long term) and the decision makers (who must continue to insist upon the highest design quality). In turn that will mean continuing co-operation between the three local authorities and the other relevant agencies. And Government must continue to support them where necessary. Those authorities have responded to the challenges through their agreements on co-ordination and delivery. They have made a good start, but the task ahead is to ensure that quality in all its aspects is never sacrificed in the drive to achieve quantity.

Cancun—Network City

By Arq. Eduardo Ortiz Jasso

Integrated solution

In June 2007, the IMPLAN presented the Strategic Plan Cancun 2030, what is the guide for, physical, economic and cultural transformation. The Strategic Plan Cancun 2030 is about sharing responsibilities between the three layers of government, the

community and the business world.

The Plan gives a vision for the city as supported by Cancun's inhabitants. A vision has been redacted for the next thematic lines:

1. Environment
2. Urban territorial land use planning
3. Urban mobility
4. Tourism and economic development
5. Development and social incorporation
6. Education, culture and identity

These thematic lines give us more than 100 strategic projects, from whom we choose 11, to start the physical, economic and cultural transformation with the participation of the society and with a long term view. The solution as given by the IMPLAN is assembling the city. Create a city of networks. Assembling through introducing elements and themes like:

Connectivity

- ① Articulated Primary Road Network & Mass Transport System, rapid mobility of many people connecting inhabitants with work, services and social activities.
- ① Offering infrastructure with permits economic diversification.

Green Corridors & Parks

- ① Big public spaces and green areas with a spatial quality, for leisure with a high experiential value.
- ① Introducing in the city an urban network that permits the establishment of social activities giving space to social activities areas.

Social Spatial Change (Increase the density to avoid sprawl)

(Continued on page 14)



Cancun 2008 IMPLAN

The Independent Institute for Urban
Development Planning, Cancun
www.implancancun.gob.mx

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- ① Airport City: A high density area concentrated around the airport as an engine for local economic development attracting aviation linked businesses.
- ① Administrative & Business District: Creating a high density area with infrastructure to concentrate all administrative and business related activities.
- ① Recreation & Cultural District: City Centre for leisure, cultural and social activities. Museum district and library.
- ① Revitalization of Main Square: The first centre being the cultural icon of the 20th century city, point of identity for the community of Cancun.

Urban transformations are opportunities for integration and with this guide we can reach for the vision of the city; Cancun being the tourist and logistic capitol of the Caribbean, with diversification and excellence in the services, a global city with financial districts, convention centers and cultural activities.

Uncontrolled Urbanization, Tourism Development and Landscape Transformation in Greece

By Elias Beriatos

Suggestions towards an anti-sprawl urban policy

Using [the report] findings we may specify the main directions of action that target to the limiting of sprawl and the uncontrolled urbanization and contribute to the rational housing projects in areas suited to that purpose, in combination with the adoption of environmentally friendly mechanisms, that in their turn will contribute to the integration of the environmental cost of these projects. As a consequence, the proposed set of measures and actions should include:

- ① Administrative type measures, as it is the modernization of the public sector and the increase of controls to check illegal building construction.
- ① Interventions in real estate market with more rational tax regulations, as is the adjustment of surplus value tax, the “green” tax and VAT with the aim to equally distribute profits and losses of land owners from urban development.
- ① Offering of sufficient housing programs or appropriately urbanized land.
- ① Appropriate use of the redistribution mechanisms (Transfer of Development Rights).
- ① Limiting zoning which has a binding and regulatory character (leading to the selectively unequal rise of land prices) and the designation of large areas of rather mixed uses.
- ① Establishment of an explicit and transparent procedure of development project selection (on a basis of certain criteria) so that real investments will be subsidized and not the land speculation.
- ① Strict controls on the construction of roads in the countryside through comprehensive spatial plans (at local or regional levels).
- ① Introduction of ‘partial’ land development, especially for the zones of special use and activities, something that is provided by law since many years but was never implemented.
- ① Actions of landscape restoration in selected places at local level, as landscape is the unifying element of the environmental and spatial components in a specific geographical entity.

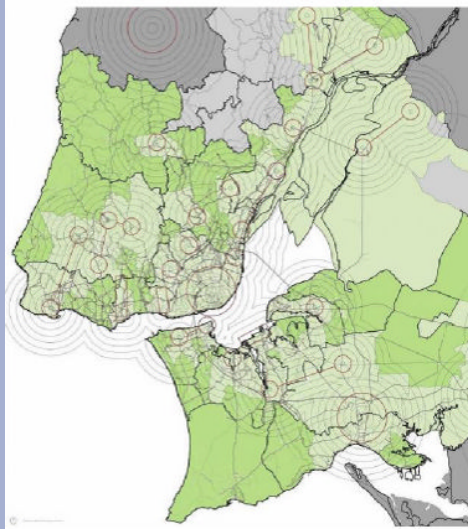
Lisbon Metropolitan Area: Centralities, Urban Growth and Policies

By Clara Mendes and Sofia Morgado

Density, Connectivity, Diversity

As research progressed, it has been noted that three

(Continued on page 15)



2001 Lisbon Metropolitan Regional Planning and Proposed Centralities



Xinghai Square, Dalian



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main factors contribute towards the condition of centrality. The factors were considered in three different years and periods - 1965, 1992, and 2001 - for each of which a set of indicators was established:

- 1) **Density** – regarding an interrelationship between building area and population by Parish, or smaller statistical unity; Nine (9) Indicators were explored considering densities and their variation;
- 2) **Connectivity** – regarding transport systems, especially multimodal areas which allow insertion of urban space into the metropolitan network; several (=8) Indicators were explored including transport infrastructure analysis and the relationship between the localization of new buildings and their insertion into the metropolitan network.
- 3) **Diversity** – regarding heritage, functional (land uses and facilities). Several (=8) Indicators were also explored, including sociological, economical activities and employment, putting into evidence the relationship between the localization of the proposed centralities, by Regional Planning and connectivity nodes.

The results obtained made known that:

- ① As long as one of the factors manifests itself in a very strong way, the necessary conditions for

the potential development of a centrality are created;

- ① The factor with highest incidence determines the type of centrality that will take place, as well as the urban forms which will be adopted.

Is it possible to plan centrality?

In short, from the perspective of its urbanistic formation, it becomes clear that centrality evolves from geographical coincidence with dense urban centers characterized by great functional diversity, given their time sedimentation and which have great heritage, political and administrative status; to situations polarized by uses of great specificity, particularly industrial areas, and, more recently to filaments of clusters of interrelated uses (SMIs and SMEs linked to research centers, multinational headquarters, housing and facilities for a highly qualified population from various countries) and which are highly competitive in international terms. Nowadays, the evolution of the metropolitan hierarchy can be seen, no longer coincident with conventional urban centers, i.e. geographical, but forming constellations of central places, characterized by multimodal access, large areas which are free from constraints and great connectivity offered by insertion into a metropolitan and international network.





Boat on a House Tsunami Reminder

A Disaster Recovery Vacation in Indonesia

By Elizabeth H. Tyler, FAICP

This past June I had the opportunity to join my husband, **Rob Olshansky**, who is a disaster planning researcher, on a trip to Indonesia to view the tsunami recovery areas. For me, the trip was simply an opportunity to take a vacation from my regular job as Community Development Director for the City of Urbana, Illinois, in a picturesque and exotic location. But I became fascinated by the research effort and wound up participating in numerous meetings and field trips to learn about the outcome of recovery efforts from the disastrous 2004 tsunami that swept through the coastal areas of western Sumatra (as well as parts of Thailand, Malaysia, India and Sri Lanka).

We started our visit in the teeming capital city of Jakarta, which is located in western Java (Indonesia is an archipelago of numerous islands, including Java, Sumatra, and Bali). A city of close to 9 million, Jakarta is a contrast of new found Asian wealth with its sparkling high rises and shiny SUVs and persistent poverty evident in the meager livelihoods of wall to wall street vendors and becak (bicycle rickshaw) drivers. Ordinarily, I love to walk around in cities, but I found that Jakarta was completely inhospitable for pedestrians. Traffic was heavy and safe crossings for pedestrians were few. A good urban transit system was also lacking. As one of very few foreigners I was constantly solicited by vendors and the sad truth is that there is just not enough money or jobs to go around. Despite well exceeding my souvenir budget, I could never buy enough batik or other goods to make a difference. Still, the improving financial situation of the country as a whole is evident in new investment and the best news we heard while we were there was a substantial reduction in the official poverty rate.

After a few days in Jakarta, we took a flight on Indonesia's national Garuda Airlines to the coastal city of Banda Aceh (population 210,000). This city and surrounding countryside was the epicenter of the tsunami and over

60,000 lives were lost in the city alone and 169,000 lives were lost in the Aceh province. Three and half years post event, Banda Aceh is once again a vibrant and bustling coastal city with much major rebuilding underway and sources of international sponsorship proclaimed in numerous development signs. Major donors include Islamic Relief organizations, the Red Cross, and the governments of other countries, primarily from Asia and the Middle East. An impressive reminder of the event was a still beached power barge located well inland and perched atop now flattened homes. Mass burial sites were also in evidence alongside new homes, hospitals, schools, memorial parks, mosques, and community centers/elevated shelters.

These were the final days of the post-recovery economic boost provided by the outpouring of international support and the city's only steak and pizza restaurants had just recently closed. More so than on Java, the area is overwhelmingly Muslim. Islamic law is in effect and almost all women were dressed modestly with veils and covered arms and legs. In addition to the few official SUVs, transport was almost entirely by motorbike.

We were fortunate to be able to meet extensively with **Eddie Purwanto**, who is in charge of recovery for the National government. A charming man, Purwanto offered his staff and office resources and spent much time with us describing the accomplishments and current goals of the recovery efforts. We were also aided throughout the trip by **Togu Pardede**, an Indonesian Ph.D. student of disaster planning at Tokyo University who was collecting data for his dissertation. Pardede was incredibly outgoing and was able to translate for us with the technical nuance of a land planner and disaster expert.

According to the staff, the redevelopment organization was on schedule to complete their recovery process by Fall 2008

(Continued on page 17)



**Typical House Reconstruction
Banda Aceh**



The main functions of the National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) are set out in the Presidential Decree No.138 Year 1999 concerning the National Development Planning Agency. The main tasks and functions are reflected in the organization structure, the process of national development planning implementation as well as the composition of human resources and their educational background.

www.bappenas.go.id/

(Continued from page 16)

and had succeeded in overseeing the construction of over 90,000 new units of housing in rebuilt and relocated villages in western and central Sumatra. In meeting with Purwanto and other planners, I was keenly struck by the overall approach to community planning that was used – it was a decidedly post-modern approach emphasizing a flexible, ground-up approach. They employed citizen participation in their village planning efforts, recruiting local stakeholders and liaisons in each community to guide and implement the efforts. The planners told of the ingenuity needed to deal with situations where all land title documents had been lost, and even previously existing known markers has been swept away. The recovery experts used the effort to place reforms on land ownership by imposing gender equality on land titles, which had previously been lacking. Unlike our own government's tardy and tightfisted response in New Orleans, the Indonesian government was generous in their settlement of land and housing claims to families of survivors. In part this was seen as a make peace effort with western Sumatra, which had been a seat of 30 years of separatist strife prior to the tsunami.

I was pleased and surprised to see that a community based paradigm was used in the recovery efforts as I had been expecting to see a rationalistic, engineering-based approach. I believe this was possible due to the long standing culture of having a centralized national planning organization in Indonesia known as BAPPENAS, along with the decision to centralize all recovery efforts into one national redevelopment authority, called BRR (Badan Rehabilitasi Dan Rekonstruksi). The community planning approach was developed in partnership with the World Bank. While BRR provided the infrastructure of recovery, rebuilding results were made possible through the record breaking donations by NGO's and other governments. We were told that funding for the rebuilding efforts was split with the Indonesian government, other donor governments, and the many NGO and private contributions, each contributing approximately one-third of the total. The relatively poor economy of Indonesia allowed overseas investments to extend far. Much of the recovery effort consisted of marshalling and using these volunteered

resources rather than in fund raising and making do with limited resources. With the world arguably less prosperous now than it was four years ago, one wonders if such a response would be possible today.

One of the highlights of our visit to Banda Aceh was a Friday morning visit to a local coffee shop. I was assured by our hosts that this is the one place where the whole community will come together to do business -- men, women, and children. It was a busy, savory place. The local folk wisdom is that the coffee is so unworldly good owing to the atmospheric influence of the ganja farms that are also located in the mountains. I enjoyed watching the multi-step brewing method and brought home two bags amongst my batik treasures.

In our field trips to new and rebuilt villages, it was fascinating to see the differing housing types provided by the various NGO's. The Swiss-provided Red Cross homes were larger and fancier, with portions elevated. The Chinese built homes had curving eaves. Almost all of the homes were a standard 6 meter by 6 meter footprint (36 square meters) and built of brick, with concrete facing and reinforced columns. Residents are expected to do final finishing. Those that had been occupied for some time showed personalization with additions, gardens, and brilliant paint jobs. But at this point most were just roughed in and awaiting their new residents. Village infrastructure was provided in the form of roads, electricity, varying levels of sanitary sewers and water, a local government office, mosque, and if on the coast, a visible escape route and elevated shelter. While the rapid rebuilding of these affordable homes was hugely impressive, there remained some broader infrastructure and socio-economic concerns. Not all of the neighborhoods were laid out in a sensible manner and not enough investment appeared to be made into rebuilding local agricultural, fishing, and other economies. While the survivors may have a new home to return to, what of their sustenance and their employment? While we did see some agricultural recovery projects and mangrove replanting efforts, my primary impression was of what I did not see—full fledged agriculture and fishing activities with a majority of residents

(Continued on page 18)



**Our Research Team and Local Experts
Banda Aceh**

(Continued from page 17)

engaged in productive labor, such as I have seen in rural Japan, for example.

I also had questions about the construction materials and methods used. Traditional Sumatran architecture employs elevated wood construction, but due to loss of the rain forest and strict environmental limitations, use of wood as a building material is forbidden even in close proximity to forests. Culturally, brick construction is preferred over any other, perhaps more suitable or sustainable material. Yet, if it could be harvested in a sustainable manner, wood construction would prove more suitable to the tropical climate and better able to sustain damage due to earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunami, all of which occur in the area. Also of concern with the brick construction was the unreinforced nature of the walls. While the building columns were reinforced with steel rebar, thereby strengthening the superstructure, the unreinforced brick walls can easily cost human lives during an earthquake. Even using a simple technology of vertical plastic packing strips (such as employed in shipping) can successfully reinforce a brick wall, but this was not being done. As in the rebuilding in New Orleans, there were few elevated homes despite the coastal flooding. It is a shame that stronger, more sustainable building designs were not able to be employed while so much of the building stock was rebuilt.

Our visit to Banda Aceh was followed by a visit to Yogyakarta in central Java to view recovery efforts following the Bantul earthquake in 2006. This event caused 6,000 deaths and left 200,000 people homeless. As in Banda Aceh, the efforts of BRR and the World Bank were well organized and documented. Village rebuilding was supervised by local liaisons with heavy reliance on resident labor. Yogyakarta is a cultural and tourism center and we took time to view the amazing ancient temple at Borobudur and a night time performance of the Ramayana ballet at the Prambanan temple. While the tourism infrastructure is well established, most visitors are from within Indonesia. Everywhere we went we attracted attention and requests for photographs and autographs. Given that the U.S. Presidential primary season was in full

swing at the time, somehow we felt like Hillary and Barack on the campaign trail.

Towards the end of our trip, and to round out the full complement of local natural disasters, our local guides next took us to the site of a recent volcanic eruption at Gunung Merapi (Fire Mountain), outside of Yogyakarta. We hiked up the mountain to get a better view of a lava choked valley and marveled at the ongoing clean up and stabilization efforts being mounted almost entirely by hand. Many of the workers were small frame women performing hard labor without protective clothing or safety equipment. How did they move rock material from one level to another? They simply stood on the edge of the cliff and dropped them, and the workers below (mercifully not having been hit by the rocks) picked them up and built a massive retaining wall by hand. On our way back down the mountain, we stopped at a vendor and purchased souvenir tee-shirts, modestly proclaiming, “Merapi—One of the Most Dangerous Volcanoes in the World”.

I was only in Indonesia for a few weeks and other than doing my part by spending some tourism dollars, I did not contribute any resources or urban planning expertise to my hosts, but I did listen and learn and marvel at the ingenuity and sophistication of the planning approaches used in the most challenging situations and the tangible positive impacts that my colleagues were making to people’s lives. This was a far richer experience than any ordinary vacation could be. By visiting and learning about planning challenges in other parts of the world, I believe we can enrich our own practice and perhaps provide some professional support to our hard working international colleagues. This is something to consider next time you plan a vacation from your stateside job.



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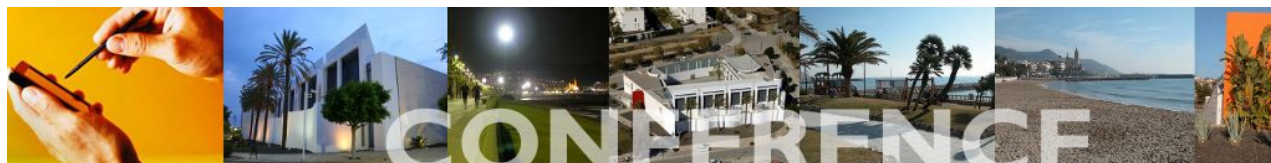
Cities 3.0 Smart Sustainable Integrative

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Strategies, Concepts and Technologies for Planning the Urban Future



REAL CORP 2009

14th International Conference on Urban Planning, Regional Development and Information Society in Sitges (Spain / Catalonia) from 22 - 25 April 2009.

REAL CORP 2009 asks for **FUTURE PERSPECTIVES OF CITIES** and the role of planners in shaping the livable cities of tomorrow.

The major questions to be dealt with at the conference in April 2009 and related to which we invite your contributions are:

- ① What makes cities smart, sustainable and integrative – and livable?
- ① How can cities and regions take advantage of globalization and keep their local character - how to "gLOCALize"?
- ① Urban Technologies, Transport Technologies, Environmental Technologies - how about state of the art and perspectives?
- ① What about "Cities for everybody" with barrier-free access to all facilities - or will there be "specialized cities and areas"?
- ① How can Real Estate Development and Urban Planning co-operate successfully?
- ① How can planners help cities find the way to a successful future? What tools and technologies do they have and will they need?
- ① How can the quality of life be improved?
- ① How can safety and security be ensured?
- ① Government, governance, mediation, participation and planning - are there models for short-term and long-

term perspectives?

- ① Are there best practices for "livable cities of tomorrow"?

There will also be a **business-exhibition** and possibilities to present companies and products - if interested have a look at our business-folder at

<http://www.corp.at/Download/CORP2009/realcorp2009sponsor.pdf>

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- ① **CEIT ALANOVA** - Central European Institute of Technology, Department for Urbanism, Transport, Environment and Information Society (www.ceit.at),
- ① **CORP** association (www.corp.at)
- ① **ISOCARP**, the International Society of City and Regional Planners (www.isocarp.org)
- ① and is supported by the **City of Sitges** (Spain / Catalonia, <http://www.sitgestour.com>), where the event will be held for the first time.

It would be great to welcome you to Sitges in April 2009 as a speaker or participant. As usual, complete information and latest news is always available on the website

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18-20 June 2009
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 German Assoc. for City, Regional & State Planning (SRL)
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5-9 September 2009
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 53rd IFHP World Congress
Berlin, Germany
 International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP)
www.ifhp.org



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18-22 October 2009
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