

2015 Pre-Conference Issue

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APA International Division

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2014 Achievements & Plans for 2015

In 2014, the International Division continued to improve its member benefits and its leadership role in APA. We revamped our communication channels (e-News, Interplan, and LinkedIn Group), we re-launched the International Planner Exchange Program between the US and the UK, strengthened the Student Grant Program, and hosted a series of regional meetups.

We also organized a great program for the 2015 National Planning Conference in Seattle, which includes a two-day pre-conference mobile workshop to Vancouver, British Columbia; a session on land use and transportation planning in Sweden; a facilitated discussion on the issues and opportunities faced by development aid planning organizations addressing urbanization in the Asia-Pacific region; the annual business meeting; and a joint reception and awards ceremony with the Sustainable Communities and Urban Design & Preservation Divisions.

We continued to play a leadership role in the World Town Planning Day Online Conference, took an active role in the Global Planners Network, co-sponsored the annual conference of the International Association of Chinese Planners in Guangzhou, China; and initiated new partnerships with national and international planning organizations.

Our plans for 2015 include:

- increasing our recruitment efforts and membership,
- establishing closer ties to the APA Student Representatives Council,
- expanding the Exchange Program to other countries,
- helping to organize the 2015 World Town Planning Day Online Conference,
- reaching out to Global Planners Network member countries in Latin America,
- co-sponsoring the International Association of Chinese Planners' 2015 Annual Conference in Chongqing,
- promoting [REALCORP 2015](#),
- cooperating more with [ISOCARP](#) (International Society of City and Regional Planners) and [UNISDR](#) (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction),
- proposing new ways to use APA Foundation funds for international research and projects, and
- helping APA National structure twinning, staff exchange, and CPAT missions to provide capacity building to other national professional planning organizations, especially those in developing countries and/or countries with particular climate change challenges.

For details about our accomplishments and future plans, please see our [Annual Report](#). Feel free to contact me at tvanepp@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to get involved.

- Tim Van Epp, Chair

Welcome Volunteers!

Secretary-Treasurer

Byron Stigge has been appointed as our new Secretary-Treasurer. Byron has extensive overseas experience in the planning of sustainable infrastructure, as well as experience as a treasurer in other organizations. Byron will be in charge of issuing meeting minutes, processing disbursements and managing our annual budget. Welcome, Byron!

Membership Director

Luis Cabrera was appointed to the newly-created Membership Director position. Luis has already analyzed our membership roster, and drafted and sent recruitment and welcome letters to new members and renewal reminders to expiring or expired members. We will continue this activity regularly to build and retain membership, which will help build our revenues and allow us to provide more services to our members. Welcome, Luis!

Social Media Director

Sou Souvanny is the Division's new Director of Social Media. Sou is experienced in planning, public administration, public engagement, and communications. She is based in Oregon and works for a major international engineering and planning firm. Don't miss the Planner Profile for more on what motivates Sou. Welcome, Sou!

China Liaison

Fei Yang will continue to help the Division build its relationship with the Board of the International Association of Chinese Planners (IACP), as the Division seeks the opportunity to co-sponsor IACP's 2015 Annual Conference in Chongqing. Thank you, Fei!

UN-Related Issues Director

Ron Bednar is the Division's new Director of UN-Related International Planning Issues. He will help us work with local UN Associations around the US focusing on the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Habitat III. Ron is a former President of the APA Pennsylvania Chapter and was Director of Regional Planning for the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. Welcome, Ron!



Connect with APA in Sustainable Seattle

Join 5,000 of your fellow planners at APA's big event, the 2015 National Planning Conference, April 18-21 in Seattle. This year's 300 sessions run the gamut from events for emerging professionals to a new Masters Series for experienced planners. You'll find training workshops free this year, plus targeted tracks, career coaching, and mobile workshops. Take advantage of APA member rates, and register by February 19 for early-bird savings. Learn more at planning.org/conference.

Follow the links below for details on our comprehensive series of activities. We will also post representatives and literature at the various networking venues to guide anyone interested in participating or in finding out more about our Division.

[Vancouverism and the Livable City – Vancouver, British Columbia \(Mobile Workshop\)](#)
April 16, 2:00 p.m. - April 17, 9:00 p.m.

Hosted by: Dave Crossley, Planning Institute of British Columbia; and APA International Division. CM | 6.0

[International Planning Division Business Meeting](#)

April 19, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

[Development Aid for Planning in Asia \(Facilitated Discussion\)](#)

April 19, 2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

With Timothy Van Epp, AICP, Chair, International Division; Jeffrey Soule, FAICP, APA Director of Outreach and International; Pat Callahan, Urban Land Institute; Clayton Lane, World Resources Institute; Daniel Tirrell, U.S. Agency for International Development; Samuel Tumiwa, Asian Development Bank; and Anmar Malik, Urban Institute. CM | 1.25

[Joint Reception and Sustainability Awards Program with Sustainable Communities Division and Urban Design and Preservation Division](#)

Sunday, April 19, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

[Transportation and Planning Innovations from Sweden](#)

April 20, 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

With Malena Moller, City of Malmo; Daniel Firth, City of Stockholm; Paul Casey, AICP, City of Santa Monica; and Laura Buhl, AICP, State of Oregon. CM | 1.25

ID Co-Sponsors Sustainability Awards

The International and Urban Design & Preservation Divisions have joined forces with the Sustainable Communities Division to present the Second Annual Awards for Excellence in Sustainability. The awards honor projects, policies, plans, and people that show exemplary scholarship, leadership, and inspiration in sustainability planning and implementation. Nominations were due on March 16.

Please plan to attend the awards ceremony on Sunday, April 19th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Pike's Place Market, Atrium Floor and Kitchen, Economy Market Building, 1433 First Avenue, near the corner on Pike Street. [Registration](#) required. \$5/member, \$10/non-member.

Continuing and New Initiatives

by Jeff Soule, FAICP, Director of Outreach and International Programs

Over the past months, APA staff have been active creating or strengthening a variety of international partnerships. Here is an overview of our accomplishments and upcoming activities.

Relations with China

In December, APA Executive Director Jim Drinan joined me and our China representative, Fei Yang, to meet our many partners in China. The Ministry of Land and Resources invited us to partner on a rural development program funded by the Asian Development Bank, so we submitted a proposal to them. We also met with the Zhejiang University Urban and Regional Planning Institute, which hosts our office in China and provides support through their program; and we participated in a two day symposium hosted by Tongji University that focused on ways to integrate cultural conservation with development and overall urbanization. Look for our session on [historic village conservation](#) at the 2015 National Conference in Seattle to learn more about APA's work with ICOMOS, UNESCO, and our partners in the Yunnan Province. Also look for the Division's panel on [Development Aid for Planning in Asia](#) for details on other trends and opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region.

Smart Cities in India

India has embarked on a long-range effort to create smart cities and APA is looking for ways to connect with this massive undertaking. We have contacted several of our members in India along with ICOMOS India and the US Department of Commerce. Under the President's initiative with Prime Minister Modi, the Commerce Department is sponsoring a variety of initiatives, including technical assistance in urbanization. APA has been part of a larger discussion and we hope to participate as this program develops.

UN Habitat 2016

Habitat III will be in Quito, Ecuador in the summer of 2016 and APA has been active in promoting the Urban Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) with our participation in the World Urban Campaign. See my latest update and stay informed at: <https://www.planning.org/international/habitat/>

Urban Communities Sustainability Forum

Thanks to our work with the US Department of Transportation's International Office, we contributed a session on water and waste at the [Forum of Communities for Urban Sustainability](#) on March 5 and 6 at the French Embassy in Washington, DC.

Upcoming Webinars

We are also planning two webinars in cooperation with the International Division: Public Health and International Practices (date TBD), organized by Karen Lee; and How to Work with Local UN Associations (tentatively in March), featuring former Pennsylvania Chapter President Ron Bednar, who has worked with the Philadelphia UN Association.

I look forward to hearing from any members on these and other topics at jsoule@planning.org. Hope to see you in Seattle!

PLANNER PROFILE ↗



Southisone Souvanny

Sou is a land use planner with the Portland, OR office of Cardno. An active member of the Division, she helps coordinate the World Town Planning Day Online Conference. She has a Master's degree in Public Administration with a specialization in Global Leadership and Management from Portland State University and a Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning from Arizona State University.

Sou's interest in social and physical city planning stems from her experience being born to Lao parents in a refugee camp in Thailand and seeing the social and structural inequities in the predominately low-income and minority Seattle, Washington community in which her family settled.

In 2011, Sou had the opportunity to go to Vietnam for 4 months to work in the city of Hoi An through a partnership with UN-HABITAT and PSU. Working with professionals from Portland, local communities, and local government officials, Sou shared her passion for city planning and social impact analysis providing the foundation for an eco-city implementation plan and atelier for Hoi An. After learning of the socio-economic issues that come with increased tourism, climate change, and natural disasters, Sou's goal is to continue working internationally designing inclusive, sustainable cities.

In her down-time, Sou enjoys hiking, camping, and keeping a running list of places to visit. Fluent in Thai and Lao, Sou also works with Southeast Asian programs connecting people to their culture.

100 Smart Cities in India: Are They the Solution?

By Puja Bhutani

India is jumping on the smart cities bandwagon, following the lead of South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, and China. The pledge to build a hundred smart cities across the country was made in 2014 by India's popular prime minister, Narendra Modi, both as a way to deal with India's rapid urbanization and to compete with these emerging economies. It is also part of an effort to fulfill a campaign promise to speed government decision-making and remove bureaucratic hurdles that have slowed development. The announcement has generated much discussion in the media and political circles, with some doubting that India, where many people live without basic infrastructure, should be focused on grand design.

Smart cities are envisioned as ecological urban settlements managed and governed through the transformative powers of technology. They harness information and communication technology and use data smartly to develop robust and efficient water, power, and transportation infrastructure. They are seen as a way to facilitate city management and to catalyze private and foreign investment.

In India, smart cities are being conceived as new satellite communities for large cities of over 4 million people and as modernized existing mid-sized cities.¹ Many will include Special Economic Zones, which relax regulations, reduce taxes, and generally make it easier for foreign companies to invest. Planners are also talking about creating a high-tech industrial zone anchored by a major freight line and spanning six states. It's estimated that this initiative will cost 1.15 billion USD for the first year, with more funding coming from private investors and abroad.

A number of smart cities are already in the works, especially in the corridor between Delhi and Mumbai, India's political and business capitals. Modi himself has taken steps to accelerate the project by reducing delays in the necessary approval processes and liberalizing foreign direct investment norms to attract more overseas capital. International assistance has also been sought from Singapore and Japan, among others.

Modi's flagship smart city project is the Gujarat International Finance Tec City or GIFT.² It was initiated after Modi's visit to Shanghai and designed by a firm behind China's flashiest buildings. The city, located on the outskirts of Gujarat's capital, will function as a financial hub and will be targeted to the international and affluent demographic. Plans include an 80-story "Diamond Tower" on an artificial island and city-wide solar panels, automated garbage collection, and water treatment and recycling plants.³ Text messages will alert commuters of traffic and guide them through the city's streets. The first phase of construction is already underway and two 28-story towers, the tallest in the state, have already been completed. Full build-out is expected by 2020. Yet, in spite of all the hype and the reduced taxes and regulations in its Special Economic Zone, GIFT has been slow to attract tenants.



Artist's rendition of GIFT. Source: <http://giftgujarat.in/downloads/download.aspx>

1 Source: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/pm-narendra-modi-100-smart-cities-key-elements/1/382021.html>

2 Source: <http://giftgujarat.in/home.aspx>

3 Source: <http://giftgujarat.in/gallery/explore-gift.aspx>

South of Gujarat will be Dholera, an even larger, 920 square-kilometer city that will serve as a manufacturing hub and house approximately two million people when it is completed in 2040.⁴ Funding for this Special Economic Zone will come from the central and state governments, a Japanese contribution from the Delhi-Mumbai corridor project, and private investors. However, in this instance, locals are fighting the proposal. They contend that the government is pushing to build the city without considering the impact on the 40,000 people who live there and who will lose their livelihoods when their farmlands are bulldozed. They also argue that replacing rural

areas with new cities in general is misguided policy and that the government's role should be to provide adequate services to people living in rural areas.

There is no doubt that medium and mega-sized cities are India's economic drivers.⁵ Over 60% of the nation's GDP comes from its urban areas and their population is projected to grow from 340 million in 2008 to 590 million in 2030, according to a 2010 McKinsey study.⁶ The firm estimates that the country will have to build the equivalent of one Mumbai (the fourth most populous city in the world with more than 20 million people) of commercial and residential space every year just to keep up.⁷

But will the biggest cities-building initiative in the history of India be another unrealistic grand gesture or will it reform existing systems and institutions and produce the desired socio-political and economic transformations? As Teddy Cruz suggests, "the future of cities today depends less on buildings and, in fact, depends more on the fundamental reorganization of socioeconomic relations."⁸ The smart cities model, as exemplified by GIFT and Dholera, seems to be widening existing socio-economic inequalities and making cities even less



Partial view of Mumbai. Source: Author, 2014.

inclusive. Maybe a better approach, to echo Alex Steffan, is "...reweaving the urban fabric that we already have."

It could also be too simplistic to think that India's problems are just spatial and technological, rather than social, economic, and political. Will incorporating smart technologies into the built environment make governance more collaborative, transparent, and accountable? Given Modi's mantra of "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance" there is the political will to use technology to make government deliver. A lot will depend on how successfully technology is used to address India's problems; however, the successful smart city will owe far more of its success to good governance than to new gadgetry. This good governance will not be as concerned with putting lots of sensors on roads, but on moulding technology to address local conditions and needs; and integrating public participation into decision-making.

Puja Bhutani has over 10 years of experience in land use planning and urban design. She is currently a member of Transit Oriented Development Steering Committee with Metro, Portland, OR and recently finished her term as the Planning Commissioner for City of Lake Oswego, OR. Between 2004-07 she lived and worked in Mumbai, India, on its first special economic zone. Her profile can viewed at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/pujab>

4 Source: <http://dholerasir.com/>

5 Source: Revi Aromar. India as a Pioneer of Innovation: Constraints and Opportunities <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vm-cNhxAGFs>

6 Source: India's urban awakening: Building inclusive cities, sustaining economic growth http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/urbanization/urban_awakening_in_india

7 Source: <http://worldpopulationreview.com/world-cities/mumbai-population/>

8 Source: http://www.ted.com/speakers/teddy_cruz

A Study of Rapid Urbanization in Mongolia

Edited by Ana Hernández-Balzac

In 2014, while completing a master's degree at Harvard's Graduate School of Design, Raven Anderson received the International Division's Student Grant to travel to Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, to study efforts to manage and plan for the city's rapid urbanization. This research was the starting point for his thesis, which was recognized by the Graduate School's faculty with the Urban Planning and Design Thesis Prize. The following article is a summary of Mr. Anderson's grant report to the Division, which is available on the Division's [webpage](#). For more information, please contact Mr. Anderson at raven.ander@gmail.com Mr. Anderson is currently an urban development analyst at The World Bank.

Mongolia is a traditionally nomadic, pastoral country with short, dry summers and long, harsh winters. Its process of urbanization began in the second half of the 20th century, influenced by the socialist government's policies, which encouraged migration to the capital city, Ulaanbaatar. The city's population growth accelerated considerably in the 1990s as the country transitioned from Soviet style-central planning to a market economy and skyrocketed in 2002 after passage of the Law on Allocation of Land to Mongolian Citizens for Ownership, which in the case of Ulaanbaatar, entitles citizens to between 0.03 and 0.07 hectares of land. In fact, from a population of 600,000 in 1989, Ulaanbaatar has grown to a population of 1.3 million in 2014.

Mongolian authorities, however, have not been able to keep up with this rate of urbanization and a slew of environmental and socio-economic problems has ensued, particularly in the urban periphery. Ger districts (a unique urban form based on the traditional moveable, circular dwellings made out of wood and felt) are severely under-serviced, lacking waste and water infrastructure, schools, health resources, and regular employment opportunities. For many people, burning coal, wood, grass, and trash are the only options they have to stay warm in the winter even though it places them at risk for respiratory problems, flooding, and mudslides. Additionally, the recent property allocation law has created ambiguities and disputes that make surveying, infrastructure development, and urban redevelopment difficult.

Numerous organizations have sought to supply missing public services, combat the externalities of rapid urban growth, and improve urban planning and development processes; but they have had limited success. The two greatest challenges are the lack of a shared vision for the city's built environment and the lack of coordination. For example, foreign international development agents favor high density development, whereas local officials are split between high and low density. Also, foreign agents see the land allocation law as a problem, while local officials are split on the issue. Other problems are a constantly changing funding and political environment that pushes for different approaches and solutions over sustained and continuous efforts, lack of local perspectives in planning efforts, lack of awareness of all the actors involved in urban development, and lack of exposure to new theoretical insights in international development.

Mr. Anderson suspects that the way Ulaanbaatar can move past these challenges is by coming up with unique solutions that are appropriate for the Mongolian context (i.e. national laws, widespread use of informal heating solutions) and respect Mongolians' cultural preferences for low density development. The next step in his research, as indicated in his report, was to explore community perceptions of urban growth and development with the goal of identifying steps for more effective, equitable, and participatory urban planning in Ulaanbaatar and other cities like it.



[Sunset on Ulan-Bator](#). Source: jbdodane, 2008, licensed under [CC BY-NC 2.0](#).

The Concrete Dragon: China's Urban Revolution and What it Means for the World, By Thomas Campanella

Reviewed by Michael Kolber



[Lujiazui](#). Source: Vittorio Ferrari, 2014, licensed under a [CC BY-NC-SA 2.0](#)

In *The Concrete Dragon*, Campanella tells the story of Post-Mao urban revolution in China, focusing on Beijing, Shanghai, and the Pearl River Delta region. Despite the ambitious title, there is little here about how China's urbanization actually affects the outside world; discussion of the west is usually referenced only to compare its history of urbanization with China's. Indeed, parts of this story are familiar to anyone who has studied urbanization in the United States: gilded age decadence coupled with increasing inequality; urban sprawl following the rise of new automobile culture; Robert Moses-style razing and renewal. This is China, though, so the changes occur at a different scale – both bigger and faster than anything else that has happened anywhere, ever.

Campanella is careful to highlight elements at play that are unique to China. All land is still formally owned by the state – land parcels may be leased to developers with a moderately secure tenure or administratively directed. Urban villages evolve in situ as expanding megalopolises surround them. Modern Chinese urbanism is strongly tied to history, with imperial dynasties, colonial incursions, and Communist theory all playing a role on the shape and location of the urban landscape. Chinese cities are intensely planned, although the pace of change is so rapid that local plans often cannot keep up.

There is a strong emphasis here on the physical structures that have been built, but Campanella does not overlook discussions of both the social benefits and costs of China's urbanization. His firsthand descriptions are an important part of the book; they take what would otherwise be an indigestible list of projects and ground them into human-scale vignettes. "Lujiazui is indeed a good place for architectural photography; its austere vistas are most of the time unencumbered by messy pedestrians, bicyclists, or street vendors with their stacks of steaming buns." Campanella enjoys playing the role of architectural critic, and his sense of humor in those moments is welcome.

Western design has often served as an inspiration for Chinese developments, sometimes in surprising places. The Alex Fraser Bridge, the New Jersey Turnpike, and the White House have all served as inspiration for projects. Similarly, western planning firms and superstar architects have played a critical role in shaping much of the new urban landscape. For your reviewer, this begs an important question about the role that outside planners should be playing in Chinese development. With few exceptions, community engagement has not been a significant part of the planning process in China. Furthermore, dissent and protest can lead to citizens being imprisoned. Given that dynamic, what are the ethical obligations of the American planner working in China? Is it acceptable to work there at all?`

As an American planner reading about Chinese urbanization, there are times when I wish we had the ambition and audacity of developers in China. And then there are times I am grateful that we have a bit more restraint. Campanella is successful in forcing the reader to reflect on how difficult it is for planners to find a balance between development and preservation, growth and stability.

Michael Kolber is the Division's Vice-Chair At-Large. He has six years of experience in community development and has developed considerable expertise in monitoring and evaluation through his work with non-profits in the US and Africa. He has a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Drew University and a Master's degree in Urban Planning from Columbia University. He currently lives in East Brunswick, NJ.

Expanding access to water and sanitation in India

By Lesley Pories

I work at Water.org, a non-profit that works in developing countries to provide access to clean water and sanitation. What makes us unique is our approach: instead of building water points or toilets ourselves, we help provide microloans for water and sanitation infrastructure (most often piped water or toilets). Our theory is that the poor can actually afford regular payments; it's the large up-front capital that people without bank accounts have difficulty managing. We work through local partner organizations who understand the local contexts of the places where we work. To date, we have pretty high repayment rates, thus supporting our logic.

My portfolio covers twelve local partner institutions with work that spans ten states in India. I travel there frequently to meet with partners, interview borrowers and help troubleshoot. Our work occurs in rural villages and urban slums, so I am privileged to see inside a wide variety of homes and develop a deeper understanding of how issues of water and sanitation operate on people's lives.

No one reading this article will be surprised to hear me reflect that the issues of water management change depending on the context. The majority of our water loans in India are for piped water connections, and the bulk of the money from the loan goes towards paying the local water authority to connect to the existing pipeline. This makes for a more seasonal distribution of water loans, especially in rural areas, as water authorities do not tend to issue water permits during the dry season when water supplies are lower. Moreover, loans for infrastructure are a harder sell in places that are frequently ravaged by cyclones and flooding, as is the case in coastal Odisha, despite desperate need.

Slum in Delhi. Source: Lesley Pories, 2014.



In the case of urban slums, connecting to the water network is often a two-step process: The local water authority has to first agree to lay pipelines that connect a slum to the official water supply and then carry out their promise before local residents can actually lay pipelines that connect their homes to the water network. One organization that we work with in urban Hyderabad has been incredibly successful in convincing the local authorities to connect various slums. However, you can easily imagine that these successes occur over periods of time, not overnight. In addition, political regulations in India restrict the activities local governments can take in terms of laying pipelines around elections, lest it be interpreted as “buying votes”. Thus, timing is critical.

Issues of land ownership and title play a large role in our work. Understandably, people are very unlikely to put themselves into debt to build infrastructure on property that they do not own. In rural areas I see this playing out when there are land ownership disputes between family members; in urban areas this obviously impacts our work in informal settlements (slums). In one particular slum in Hyderabad, the work of our partner organization actually led to slum residents only getting piped water for the first time, but also getting deeds to their land issued as a prerequisite to the piped connections! This was an unanticipated but warmly welcomed result.

I am frequently moved by the stories I hear about how families managed to collect water before they took a loan from us, particularly in slums. While water collection is primarily women’s work, if the water source was a far distance away, the men might be engaged to help transport the large, heavy drum of water on motorcycle or rickshaw. I heard from one borrower how her whole family used to form a relay line for passing buckets of water back and forth from their home to the water source. Collecting water invariably involves adults missing out on earned income and children missing school, not to mention the physical fatigue women endure carrying water as well as the mental fatigue that frequently results from either arguing with neighbors waiting in line for water or begging those with private water sources to share.

In this way, effective water management is inextricably linked to income and education, not only health, and serves as a reminder that coordination between planners, residents and local governments is essential to the long-term vitality of communities.

Lesley Pories is an International Programs Manager at Water.org. She holds a Master of City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Masters in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts. She has worked with the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, World Resources Institute, and Carter Center, and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Uzbekistan.



Family getting water in Andhra Pradesh. Source: Lesley Pories, 2014.



Borrower in Jeypore, Odisha. Source: Lesley Pories, 2014.

Division Meetups Held Across the US

The International Division hosted several get-togethers across the US on February 5, 2015.

San Francisco, CA

Miroo Desai, the Division's Exchange Program Coordinator, hosted a Division meetup at Tank 18 in San Francisco, CA. At the small but fun gathering, members chatted about their "international" experiences and learned more about the Division's various initiatives, including the International Planner Exchange Program and the National Conference sessions.

Portland, OR

Grace Cho and Sou Souvanny, Division members, organized a meetup at Rontoms in Portland, OR. With 13 members from the private, public, and institutional sectors in attendance and eagerly sharing their experiences and interests in international projects and programs, Grace and Sou will be planning future events.

New York/New Jersey

At the regional meetup in New York, graduate students from Columbia, Pratt, and Rutgers joined Chair Tim Van Epp and Vice-Chair Michael Kolber for a wide range discussion of global planning issues. Both the planning climate and specific projects in China, Saudi Arabia, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Turkey, and Haiti were brought up. There was also a considerable amount of talk about planning opportunities with the International Division, APA as a whole, and other organizations.

Division Member Elected to Lead ISOCARP

Ric Stephens, the Division's Vice Chair for Special Projects, was elected as ISOCARP's President for the term of 2015-2018. Congratulations, Rick!



From right to left: Kit Wang, Holly Pearson, Miroo Desai, Stevinson Rojas (student at San Jose State), and Kate Marple-Cantrell (student at Cal Berkeley).



From left to right: Puja Bhutani, Andrew Tull, Iren Taran, Grace Cho, Lorraine Gonzales, Sou Souvanny, June Stephens, Ric Stephens, Matt Shane, Chuck Fisher, Bimal Rajbhandary, Joanne Manson.



Pictured from left to right, we have Zach Subar, Michael Kolber, Jawahar Al Sudairy, Jessica George, Tim Van Epp, and Johane Clermont.



▾ WINDOW TO THE WORLD

Community Buy-In for Climate and Natural Resource Monitoring: Snapshots from the Mexican Campo

By Noah Chutz

Since 2012, Mexico has been testing a natural resource management model that incorporates community participation. Far from merely informing, consulting, and addressing specific concerns, Mexico is building the capacities of local communities across the country to conduct formal decision-making processes and develop locally-relevant monitoring programs for their collectively-owned natural resources. (Note: Most of the land in Mexico is owned communally by entities known as ejidos.)

This effort is part of Mexico's National Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), which is itself part of a global effort to curb carbon emissions from the forest and agriculture sectors and achieve decades-old goals for sustainable development. It has so far suggested that the marriage between social legitimacy and technical knowledge offers a powerful platform for future natural resource management projects.

The pilot project pictured here took place from 2012 to 2013 in Western Jalisco. It had the support and participation of CONAFOR (the National Forestry Commission of Mexico), Latin American Investment Facility (LAIF), Peace Corps, US Forest Service International Programs, Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature), and the Ejidos of El Jorullo and El Empedrado.

Committee members discussing forest health concerns and mistletoe infestations in Ejido El Empedrado, Western Jalisco, Mexico. Source: Noah Chutz, 2013.



Committee members mapping priority areas for water resources in Ejido el Jorullo, Western Jalisco, Mexico. Source: Noah Chutz, 2013.