

International Division Annual Business Meeting

April 30, 2021 6:30 CST

Attendees:

David Capelli
Paul Diebel
Scott Edmondson
Akshali Gandhi
Kate Holmquist
George Kandathil
Michael Kolber
Gala Korniyenko
Joanna Manson
Carla Mays
David McFarland
Steven Michejda
Anthony Nachor
Krishna Shrivastava
Michelle Tullo
Tim Van Epp
Kit Wang
Carter Williams
Jing Zhang

Welcome and Introductions

Kate welcomed everyone to the Annual Business Meeting/NPC Kickoff. She gave an overview of the evening.

Michael welcomed everyone as Chair. This is his second term as Chair. He has been involved since 2012. Michael expressed his pleasure working with the Division and his gratitude for everyone able to attend. He noted the difficulty of the past year and noted the impressive amount our division has accomplished in the past year despite all the challenges. He listed some of these accomplishments: we received a Division Council Award for Outstanding Article on displaced people in Syria; we hosted World Town Planning Day Conference; we launched a beautiful new website; we just released a Latin America Special Report, which is an incredible snapshot of planning in Latin America; we have several division committees that have been incredibly successful moving forward like Humanitarian Affairs and Aging and Livable Communities; we have a new Japan Working Group; we have launched our Planefiquemos initiative to adapt our planning practice to embrace the Latino community in the United States and provide a guide for planners engaging in those communities. We have also had lots of articles, e-blasts, and webinars. Tonight we will hear more about these initiatives, things we had to cut due to the pandemic, and new future opportunities.

Jing: Communications:

- When we created our new website, we updated our Interplan guidelines. There will be 4 issues per year. We just released the most recent one on Latin America about practitioners in Latin America. The summer issue will be on NPC. We think our next issue will be planning in African countries and Jing will reach out to experts in that area.
- The Planning Excellence Awards- we focused on African countries. The deadline for applicants will close soon and we will evaluate winners. The hope is for next year to engage with more members on the Planning Excellence Awards.
- The new website is up and running. It is a gamechanger. (International.planning.org) This helps us update our news announcements quickly and update info on our initiatives. There may be some errors or items that need to be improved and if you find those, please let Jing know.
- Planefiquemos (Let's Plan Together). We have three authors and six advisors and several contributors. Our vision is to develop Spanish phrase and culture guide for planners who work in Latino communities to utilize. Our second step after finishing is to create a second chapter on planners who are interested in engaging in Latin American countries.
- We are using Mailchimp for our e-blasts. It has been working pretty well for us.
- Question on whether Latino Planning Division has been contacted: Yes; two leaders of the division are serving on our Advisory Board.

Kate: Coordinator for Aging and Resilient Communities Initiative

Kate took over a strong partnership that the Division had with AARP. We are working on research and will post soon on our website. Kate has recently launched an interview project. During COVID, Kate felt we should take advantage of the virtual times and leverage our international connections. That project is underway. Kate has received ten interviews so far focusing on the aging population's experiences during COVID and what that tells us about communities and livability. A lot of the work is looking at multigenerational households, which ties into an NPC session Kate is jointly planning with Stephanie Firestone of AARP. Kate is working to develop an Interplan article and special report on this work.

(Film): Lyndsey: Humanitarian Working Group (Vice-Chair at Large)

APA ID established this committee in 2019 for the field of humanitarian assistance and development and planning. We want to create opportunities to deploy planning fields and support with advocacy, technical skills, and other things. Our website international.planning.org/community/humanitarian for more info.

We focus on:

- Displacement planning (communities in conflict zone; displaced peoples)
- Contested space (sanctuary city; etc)
- Emergency response
- Reintegration planning (post-conflict reconstruction)

Those are our four focus areas and we have smaller breakout groups within those areas. Another success is our webinar series. We meet every other month at 7pm EST on the fourth Tuesday of the month and discuss these topics. We have featured non-planners like Emily Clifton, the director of Humanitarian Programs at Save the Children and her view of opportunities and challenges for planners. We feature academics like Dr. James who gave a presentation on adapting humanitarian shelters to the traditional cultural living patterns of Haiti. We also feature planners who have experiences in these areas. Michael Kolber, our chair, gave a presentation on his work on community reconstruction in the

Congo and working on internal governance. These webinars are free and open to anyone, but focused on topics of interest to the international planning community. Our next webinar is May 25 at 7pm with Belen Gonzales. She is currently at MIT and the former CEO of Techo Uruguay, who works toward resolving housing insecurity in Latin America. She was the CEO during the COVID crisis so you can imagine she worked with issues of housing security and how planners helped her to quickly get Census data and information to lobby the government to get needed funding to support communities. We are excited to hear about her work, and hope that you can join.

Jing Zhang: Japan Collaboration Group

We set up the group in mid-February and have had two virtual meetings 8pm-9pm EST on the second Tuesday of the month. We have 18-19 people on the team. The vision is for Japanese and American members to work together to facilitate and promote collaboration between Japanese and American planners through networking and learning. We have three initiatives:

1. Japan Planning 101: introduces the basics of Japanese planning. We are going through the basic literatures on Japanese planning and will create short one-pagers.
2. JPOC: Topic focused. We surveyed interested members to learn their top priorities (Disaster and Risk Mgmt; Aging Communities; Housing; Sustainability; Environmental). At this moment we focus our energies on Disaster and Risk Management.
3. Summarize planning news in Japan: We had our first draft which is under review. The sources are research and Japanese representatives (two from Japan to help with translation).

The next presentation will be by a consulting firm based in Tokyo on seismic risk assessments. Everyone is welcome to join. We hope that as the group develops and matures, other interested countries can imitate this structure.

Tim (Immediate Past-Chair of International): Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development Goals Group

Mission: (Neither Jessica Schmidt or Bruce could be on the call but they are partners in this group) This group aims to foster discussion related to climate resilience in APA and abroad. The group is interested in climate action planning, a better understanding of US achievement in STGs, and facilitating international planners to meet STGs and Paris Targets. We plan to have bi-monthly meetings to introduce these tools and techniques to planners and introduce speakers from around the world. We hope this will feed into AICP mandatory Resiliency CM credits, which takes effect next year.

We have had a couple of Zoom calls and decided to focus initially on speakers. We would like to bring in some dynamic speakers who will attract viewers from APA and build support and participation in our group. In our last call, we identified 10-15 speakers, several academics, World Bank speakers, some government, UN SDN, etc.

We have several goals, like mainstreaming International throughout the division. We have some upcoming UN conferences and trying to get us represented at Less Developed Countries conference, and other conferences in NY.

Humphrey Fellows Networking:

This is a program similar to Fulbright scholars run by US State Dept. It brings planners, among other professionals, to the US. The planners attend MIT and get involved with a professional affiliation. We have had a few meetings with them. We have had some networking and will have a strategy meeting in late May.

Member Introductions:

- Krishna, member since inception of division. He works in India, Nepal, East Africa, and US. He is interested in the impacts of COVID-19 on international communities. He is interested in doing a study of supply chain on international community and the planning factor. He mentioned the following questions he is interested in: “Here we heard about lack of PPE early on, and surprisingly early on, why were the hospitals shorts? On the flip side, most hospitals are centralized and publicly owned. But, we recently discovered that the supply chain broke down in oxygen deliverance. Who has this responsibility?”
- David McFarland: member for many years. Based in PA and likes to look over the fence and take lessons from what others are doing. Member of ISCORP. Had worked in Japan.
- Gala Korniyenko: Based in Columbus, OH. PH Student at Ohio student, interested in international planning as international student. Doing masters a U Kansas. Interest in disability and planning and research focus is public participation and accessibility. Involved in American Collegiate School of Planning on curriculum and planning development so open to suggestions on planning and development. Glad to attend Zoom meeting and see international planners. Tim mentioned Bruce as Contact and Gala said she is in touch.
- Kit Wang: Member for awhile. Based in Berkeley, work in private sector in urban design and landscape architecture. This being online made it easy to join and is looking forward for opportunities to join.
- Joanna Manson: I’m the Division Finance Director. I volunteered a few years ago and thought my workload would be less this year, but started DOTD last year and have been swamped. I’m trying to keep up with International Division stuff. I did an international division exchange in 1999 and am happy to be here and participating. I’m in the Pacific Northwest but up in Olympia now.
- Paul Deibel: Been a division member for quite a few years. Based in Los Angeles County and community development director in many cities in Southern California. Recently retired to consulting to nonprofits and cities and has more time and flexibility. Prior to planning, Paul worked abroad in France and Ecuador and became fluent in French and Spanish and have worked in Spanish for most of his career, working in California, and has been able to utilize that skill. He appreciates the summary of activities of our division and thinks they are very impressive and would like to become more involved, especially with language skills.
- Akshali Gandhi: Fairly new to the division, joined just a few months ago. Transportation planner for King County Metro and does regional parking management. Her interests are in transportation and mobility practices abroad, particularly in Latin America, and would love to learn more about that and is excited to read the Latin American report. She is interested in learning more about working abroad from division members.
- Carter: He is Webinar Coordinator for International Division. He is a planner in Reno. He is looking to see more webinar opportunities in the future, so look out for those!
- George: Just recently joined the division and after hearing about the communities and groups is excited to get more involved, in all four. They all seem like they do great stuff. He is in the Chicago area and his background is in transportation planning. Also, he has lived a number of years in Japan and speaks Japanese and would love to get involved with that group.

Note: The new website was shared. Most groups are on there except the newest ones (Sustainability and Janett’s group). Hopefully it will all be updated soon, since this is a new website.

NPC Events:

Regional Networking Event: Tuesday, May 4: 5:00-6:00 pm

- Boston- Nerali Patel
- New York: Evren Ulker-Kacar & Kathryn Gregory
- Pacific NW: Kate Holmquist
- Washington DC: Riley Abbott & Evan Todtz
- Europe: Troy Hayes
- Lindsey is working on leading this.
- Janett Tapia is our Policy Coordinator and based in the Netherlands and so hosts events there as well.
- We are looking for additional regional coordinators. Our biggest needs are for Chicago, LA, and San Francisco. We are focusing on places where we have large concentrations of divisional members. We also have a substantial number of members in Texas, but they are spread out across Texas. As a global organization it is hard to engage face to face, but this is a great opportunity to engage face to face.

Thursday, May 6: (TBD): International Networking

- This event is with the MIT Humphreys Fellows. It will be after the NPC events.

Thursday, May 6: 10:00-10:40 CT

- NPC Session: Planning for Multigenerational Living and Resilient Communities: Kate and Stephanie will be speaking about aging and liveable communities. Kate will be bringing in the perspectives from our interview project and what that means for planning.

Wrap-Up:

Jing showed the new website landing page. Kate said we will be increasing activity on LinkedIn, along with Sitwat Sayed, our social media and student coordinator. The leaders' info is available on the Contact info page. There are involvement opportunities and committee webpages.

The meeting concluded with casual happy hour conversations.