



# 48 ISOCARP CONGRESS PERM

10-13 September 2012

The 48<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Society of City and Regional Planners is in the City of Perm, Russia, on 10-13 September 2012, addressing this challenge: Fast Forward: Planning in a (hyper) dynamic urban context.

ISOCARP's partners as hosts of the congress are the City of Perm and the newly-formed Russian Urban Planners' Association (RUPA). The City of Perm is known as "the capital of Russian liberalism". It is also recognized throughout

# Fast Forward: Planning in a (hyper) dynamic urban context

Russia for pioneering new, more dynamic forms of urban planning in Russia. RUPA is seeking to establish urban planning as a profession in its own right, with new styles of professional practice, and new educational programs in top universities.

ISOCARP, the City of Perm and RUPA invite the world's planners to meet in Perm on 10 September 2012.

Upload abstract by 30 April

## Call for Papers

Final paper due 9 July 2012



### An invitation from Stefan Rau, General Rapporteur of 48 ISOCARP Congress Perm

Planners are increasingly exposed to a hyper-dynamic context that tends to characterize socio-economic as well as ecological change in a highly interrelated, increasingly urban world. This requires a fast forward response towards

eco-efficient, low-carbon, socially-inclusive solutions and lifestyles, maybe even transcending the 'growth' mode for a 'quality' mode of general development.

High speed urban change is not entirely new – since industrialization fast economic and urban growth has been an international reality, accelerating in the second half of the last century. However, urban change is still speeding up. In the last three decades the number of metropolitan agglomerations above one and above ten million residents has dramatically increased, mostly in emerging and developing countries, leading to various urban typologies.

High-speed urban change is not only a growth phenomenon. Demographic changes, investment behaviour and migration lead on the one hand to rapid urbanisation and on the other to loss of jobs and population. Both growth and decline occur simultaneously and lead to polarizations on global, regional and local scales. Planners have to seek solutions for both.

Climate-risk and environmental loss and degradation, resource scarcity and natural disasters seem to occur more frequently, on more drastic scales. We are witnessing large scale socio-political change at breaking-news speed, organised in a crowd-sourcing fashion through the internet, social networks and cellular phones. Constitutional change and the urge to change the planning culture, practice and education demands an accelerated learning curve and international cooperation among planners.

The commonality shared by these current phenomena is that they require regional policy, spatial planning, urban design and governance to cope with a high speed of change. Appropriate planning responses have to be robust: meet short-term demands while simultaneously paving the way for sustainable mid-term and long-term solutions. Planners need to shape organisational processes, prioritise planning strategies and controls, and identify key implementation actions. We need a fast forward planning paradigm and knowledge-sharing among planning professionals around the world to collectively find answers.

At this congress we will gather experience of how planners should treat speed with caution, as there are dangers like prioritising economic aspects while marginalising social, cultural and ecological needs resulting in externalities that may ultimately reverse fast forward to fast backward. And we want to discuss how planners ought to embrace speed as it creates opportunities for positive change, wealth, potential for infrastructure and betterment for local communities. We want to identify successful response patterns – how planners can employ the energies of hyper-dynamic processes strategically, to create quality despite high speeds, resulting in holistic sustainability fast forward.

ISOCARP's World Urban Planners' Congress 2012 in Perm will stand on three pillars:

- 1 Dynamic urban change:** growth/decline; environmental and socio-political change; disasters.
  - a) Planners' responses, strategies, lessons learned. Case studies.
  - b) Understanding and simulating the speed of urban systems, identifying effective interventions.
- 2 Planning fast forward in Russia** – the transformation of Russia's planning culture, system and education.
- 3 World Planners' Forum** for international best practice, innovative methods and advanced theory on any relevant topic of planning.

For this year's congress, ISOCARP welcomes papers on planning practice, research and theory for the World Planners' Forum, and specifically invites papers and expertise on the following topics related to the challenging core themes of the Congress:

- Rapid urbanization: Steering high-speed urbanization towards low-carbon, eco-efficient liveability.
- Economic decline and population loss: opportunities for 'post-growth' pioneers?
- Environmental change: 'slow-motion catastrophes'. Needed: fast forward planning.
- Disasters natural and manmade: Immediate action and long-term guidance.
- Urban dynamics: Understanding speed in systems and subsystems.
- Don't postpone: social inclusion, cultural and ecological conservation, eco-mobility.
- Leadership for planning and planning culture after abrupt socio-political system changes.

Congress website: [2012.isocarp.org](http://2012.isocarp.org)

Watch for information and updates on the Congress program, keynote speakers, the City of Perm, registrations and travel arrangements.