

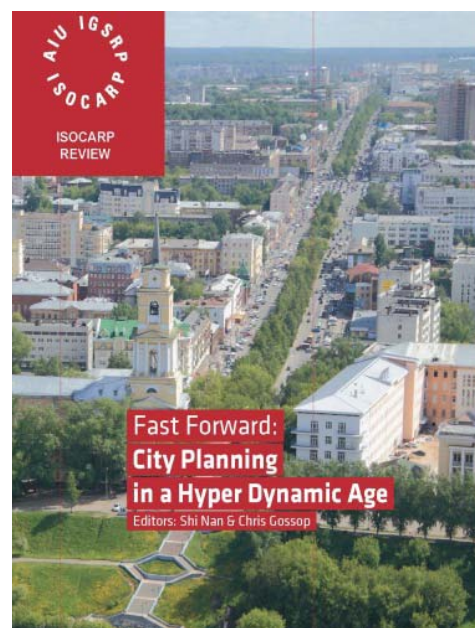
Fast Forward: City Planning in a Hyper Dynamic Age

Editors: Shi Nan & Chris Gossop

This latest edition of the ISOCARP Review is about the extremes of development and the planning response to them. Published in tandem with ISOCARP's 48th World Congress held in the Russian city of Perm in September 2012, *Fast Forward* addresses the realities of those extremes and the ways in which different countries and individual cities have sought to cope with them. At one end of the development spectrum we have the cities of many Asian countries which are expanding massively through a combination of migration from rural areas and natural increase. At the other, there are the shrinking cities and towns of once prosperous regions which have lost their original purpose and fallen well behind, leaving a degraded and often depressing environment.

Following an introductory essay by Stefan Rau, General Rapporteur for the Perm Congress, fifteen case studies are presented in the book's four main parts. Three are about world regions, Asia, Europe and the Russian Federation. The fourth addresses the cross cutting theme of natural disaster and it is about the increasing vulnerability of our expanding cities to changing weather patterns and other natural disasters.

The six Asian case studies present a rich cocktail of experience. Drawn from India, China, Indonesia and the Philippines, the common factor is one of exceedingly fast growth. However, the planning response and its effectiveness has differed greatly between these countries. Thus in India, planning has been overwhelmed by the present 'fast forward' and, short of a new overall strategy operating on a wide range of fronts, tens of millions of city residents seem destined to endure a poor quality of life. In China, while formidable problems remain, especially in terms of social inclusivity and the health of the environment, the



process of growth has, at least, been much more ordered.

The studies from Europe are similarly varied. They include the astonishing story of housing in the former East Germany and of how planning post 1990 has dealt with 'shrinking cities' of this part of the former Soviet bloc. By contrast, the new city of Milton Keynes in southern England has managed to avoid the economic stagnation or decline experienced in many urban areas - through a master plan that has stood the test of time and through an enduring ability to innovate.

Russia has faced truly momentous changes and tensions over the last twenty years as the country adjusts to becoming a market economy. The case studies presented address: the challenge of a changing population distribution across this enormous country; the continuing mismatch between the dense form of what is being built in today's cities and the aspirations of many to live in a rural idyll; and the momentous 2012 international competition in respect of the planned massive expansion of Moscow.

Review 08 has 322 pages and contains numerous maps, photographs and other illustrations.

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Shi Nan and Chris Gossop

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