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ISOCARP presents the Second Award for Excellence in Planning

In the city of Sitges (Spain) the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) praised the representatives of six cities with exceptional plans for their future

Sitges, November 10th, 2008

On November 8th the Mediterranean city of Sitges was the venue for the ceremony of the Second ISOCARP Awards for Excellence related to the ISOCARP Congress 2008 theme "Urban Growth without Sprawl". After careful evaluation by an expert jury, this non-governmental organization recognized by UNESCO decided to award the cities of Amsterdam, Antwerp, Cancun, Delhi, Warsaw and Yangzhou for their special development plans. The ceremony was held on World Town Planning Day, November 8th.

The award ceremony was celebrated in the Design Centre of Sitges (Barcelona). Representatives of the winning cities were present there. The act began with a speech by ISOCARP President, Pierre Laconte, who recognized the effort of the laureate cities to become an exceptional site for their citizens, being at the same time an example for other parts of the world. The past president of ISOCARP, Alfonso Vegara, reminded the spirit in which these awards were born, to acknowledge the importance of cities nowadays and how critical is their planning towards the future.

During the award ceremony, the urban planners Judith Ryser and Teresa Franchini – members of ISOCARP – presented the fifth edition of the International Manual of Planning Practices (IMPP). This publication, one of the flagships of ISOCARP, includes the particularities of the planning systems in over 100 countries in the world. The book will be available for sale through the ISOCARP web page – www.isocarp.org.

The Mayor of Sitges, Jordi Baijet, co-hosted the ceremony, because the Society has had a Project Office in this place for three years. In his closing address, he thanked the politicians, investors and urban planners from all over the world who had come to this city in Catalunya (Spain) and reminded that Sitges wants to become an international reference point for City Design, through different activities and agreements like the one they have with ISOCARP.

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The awards were given with the following reasons:

Amsterdam (Netherlands). Project: "An image for development of the region for 2040" – presented by Ton Hooijmaijers, Vice Governor of the Province of Noord-Holland. "For the very long term vision (which is important and indispensable in order to achieve sustainability), the great internal coherence and consistency of the project, the right scale of thinking as well as the wide spread consultation of stake holders and the public at large".

Antwerp (Belgium). Project: "Antwerp, site of the century (structure plan)" – presented by Ludo Van Campenhout: Vice-Mayor Urban Development of the City of Antwerp. "For the respect of the water element, the neighbourhood dimension, the greening of the city at the level of each quarter, the creation of new parks in brown field sites and the quality of the strategic spatial development plan which was designed by Bernado Secci and Paola Vigano, containing concrete projects for crucial areas in the city".

Cancun (Mexico). Project: "Strategic Plan Cancun 2030" – presented by Eduardo Ortiz-Jasso, director of the Municipal Planning Institute (IMPLAN). "For the capacity of IMPLAN- a recently established independent planning institute- to work in a complex environment in order to find new mechanisms to make more consistent a very rapidly growing urbanized area. For leading the transformation from an exclusive tourist destination to a proper urban centre, and for improving the accessibility in the urban tissue by structuring the flows of people and goods by creating a sustainable access system".

Delhi (India). Project: "Master Plan for Delhi 2012" – presented by the Delhi Development Authority (not present at the ceremony). "For the capacity to articulate a holistic planning at one of the most complex metropolitan areas of the world and facing key changes that are in common in many other megalopolises of the planet: from shelter to trade and commerce, from industry to environment, from conservation of built heritage to urban design and from development code to plan monitoring".

Warsaw (Poland). Project: "Master Plan for a Warsaw Extension, Poland" – presented by Guy Perry, president of IN-VI. "For elaborating a coherent master plan of Warsaw notwithstanding the difficult situation in east European countries and in particular a) for combining the work of private investors with public objectives for the benefit of the whole city b) for promoting a master planned community totally integrated in the city and c) for the implementation of the principle of mixed uses/ activities, the scale of urban fabric and the structural connection with the surrounding cities".

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Yangzhou (China). Project: "Great Canal Conservation and Study" – presented by Ruan Yusan, director of the Ruan Yusan Heritage Foundation. "For making an extremely good survey along the Grand Canal, an area considered as the back bone of the urban development of China during 14 centuries, in an effort to promote alternative tourism in all surrounding cities, to invigorate farming activities, to develop quality housing and to use this area like a large heritage system (cultural route) as well as an educational tool and a communication platform for residents, officials, scholars and practitioners".

About ISOCARP

The International Society of City and Region Planners (ISOCARP) is a non-governmental organization, with consultive status at UNESCO, recognized by the United Nations and the Europe Council. It is a global professional association, founded in 1965 with the vision of reuniting the most recognized and experienced city and regional planners in the word in a network that allows them to extend their experiences and knowledge. It has members in more than 80 countries. Headquartered at The Hague (Netherlands); in 2005 a project office was opened in Sitges.