ISOCARP's 50th International Planning Congress will be an outstanding opportunity for worldwide planners, to learn, present, and discuss some of the most recent planning, research and decision making issues which are being faced these days. High profile professionals will deliver keynote presentations, plenary sessions will raise important issues in a variety of formats, over 100 presentations will be delivered at concurrent sessions, interactive workshops will be held, awards will be given, tours will explore the area, gala dinners and social events will contribute to the fruitful and lively discussions and the establishment of new collaborations and friendships between participants, and post conference tours will be offered. ISOCARP, with individual and institutional members from more than 80 countries worldwide, will mark at this event its 50th annual congress, and the beginning of the 50th year celebrations of the society. The ISOCARP conference is hosted in a different country each year. In 2014 it will be held in Gdynia, northern Poland, which is the perfect location to discuss planning issues in general, and the conference's main theme in particular.

Congress Theme: “Urban Transformations - Cities and Water”

Water is everywhere. Water related issues are significant in planning of any type and scale. All cities around the world were built along waterways, or along a coast of an ocean, sea or lake. The multifaceted relationships between urban planning and water has structured and influenced the development of metropolitan areas, cities, towns, rural areas, villages, and even neighborhoods throughout history and will always do so. The congress opens the opportunity to touch all aspects of urbanity, urban transformations, and the inherent relationships between the urban planning and water issues, from all angles, in all disciplines, and various scales.

Urban planners, environmentalists, sociologists, infrastructure planners, economists, river restoration planners and managers, decision makers, researchers and other professionals will enlighten their aspects and views. Speakers will present and discuss plans, projects, case studies, researches, evaluations, theories and methodologies. These will blend across different topics and will demonstrate how comprehensive, complex and fascinating planning is as a bridge between theory and practice.

We are all expected to be amazed how global, wide, comprehensive and acute the relationships between land and water are, both in areas which are blessed with sustainable water resources, and in areas which suffer from severe water shortage or floods.

An invitation from Amos Brandeis, General Rapporteur of the 2014 ISOCARP Congress

Architect Amos Brandeis is the owner and manager of an international urban and regional planning firm based in Israel. He served as a planner, consultant, speaker and/or workshop leader in many countries over 5 continents. He leads the international Congress Team, with its members from 13 countries, in delivering the scientific content of the 2014 ISOCARP Congress.

The broad picture, drawn by the individuals during the congress, will hopefully provide every one of us with awareness, knowledge, knowhow, tools, sensitivity, and passion to face these challenges in our daily professional life.

Congress Highlights

• Listen to world leading keynote speakers, concentrating mainly on “Urban Transformations,” and choose from over 100 presentations in parallel sessions.
• Meet high profile planners from over 50 countries worldwide, and establish new collaborations and friendships.
• Present your paper to a huge variety of professionals from the private, public and academic sectors, and have a chance to be chosen as a “Track Keynote Speaker”.
• Discuss, learn and be updated about the most recent and challenging planning issues faced these days.
• Enjoy a rich cultural and entertainment program, including receptions, gala dinner, and a partners program.
• Enjoy the wonderful hospitality of the unique Port and Waterfront city Gdynia.
• Use the opportunity to explore Poland, experience urban transformations and vibrant cities, and visit UNESCO world heritage sites, on the post congress tours.
Congress Tracks and Topics for Papers and Workshops

The concurrent sessions of the congress will be held in 6 tracks. These are with “open margins” meaning that some overlaps between them might be realized, but this is due to the complexity and multi-dimensional nature of planning. The definition of tracks, and list of possible topics of each, is aimed to stimulate any planner, either to submit a paper, or to participate at the congress. We believe the list is comprehensive enough to touch the professional work of any planner globally. Authors of papers on interdisciplinary case studies or projects are encouraged to choose the track which they think is most relevant to the core of their paper. Each track will be subdivided into sessions, with separate sub-themes. A few of the best papers might be chosen as track keynotes. Authors are also encouraged to propose round table workshops or in other format, or structured sessions, with 6 suggested speakers each. These have to include an abstract of each of the suggested authors / participants. Final decisions will be taken by the congress team. All authors should review the guidelines for abstract and paper submission on the website including regarding peer reviewed papers by a panel. Each selected author will have to submit his paper, and register at the early bird rate on time. Authors who will fail to do so will be replaced. All submitted papers (both peer reviewed and non-peer reviewed) from registered authors will be published in the congress Proceedings with an ISBN number. Additionally, a number of selected best papers will be published in the congress publication. The 2014 Congress seeks abstracts according to the 6 tracks to address the theme of “Urban Transformations: Cities and Water”:

Track 1: Urban Design, Landscape and Livable Cities

Water-related urban planning, design and vision; waterfronts and city centers close to or along rivers, oceans, seas, lakes; residential, commercial, industrial areas linked to water bodies; marinas; urban nodes and institutions along the water; sustainable and water sensitive related urban planning; cities on cliffs; underwater buildings; historic cities and towns, and heritage patterns or buildings along water and their development, renewal, or preservation; environmental design and sustainable development; waterways and parks along them; open spaces and connectivity along waterways; culture and water; urban life, festivals, performances, activities along waterfronts; inspiration of water; water related arts and cultural events; etc.

Track 2: Social Aspects, Collaborations and Governance

Water as a connection or divider between cities or regions; water related collaborations; national or local cross-border cooperation; formal and informal networks across territorial limits (water, rivers), at local level in waterfront development, or at regional level along riverside areas; people and water; demographic aspects; migration and its impacts; public participation; stakeholders engagement; grassroots initiatives; governance and decision making processes and water related planning processes; legal aspects as building along coasts and rivers, water use and water rights, planning laws in relation to water issues; etc.

Track 3: Economic, Leisure and Tourism Aspects

The economic impacts of waterfronts, urban renewal projects near water bodies, and development plans along coasts, beaches and rivers; cost benefit analysis of water related planning / water sensitive planning / river restoration projects; water and water related development as an economic catalyst in urban development; real estate issues along waterfronts, in relation to water views and along greenways; the impact of urban parks; urban growth and water issues; ports as an economic catalysts and factor in urban growth or depression of shrinking port activities; tourism along urban coast lines, beaches and rivers; tourism on the water; marinas; water sport; beach sport; bicycles paths; urban parks; etc.

Track 4: Water Management

Water management; floods, flood plains, and flood protection measures and their impacts on urban planning; urban friendly and water sensitive water planning and engineering; hydrology and geo-hydrology in the city; river and lake restoration; cross-border rivers and lakes; water quality and pollution; drinking water issues; water related illness and health problems; underground water quality; water quantity, changes in water level and their impacts on urban areas; water harvesting; desalination; water recycling and reuse; greywater; links to nearby agricultural areas; etc.

Track 5: Environment, Ecosystem and Climate Change

Environmental issues in urban and water related context; ecosystem services in urban areas; coasts and beaches; carrying capacity; protected areas and nature reserves in urban patterns; urban nature; conflicts between nature and urban development; ecological corridors; ecosystem preservation and restoration of rivers, lakes and seas with urban impacts; ecosystem health, diversity and quality of life; climate change impacts on urban areas; floods and droughts; climate change adaptation; rising of sea level, impacts and solutions; falling down cliffs; role of green spaces in urban areas for climate change; cities in water-scarce regions; coping with natural disasters (floods, typhoons, tsunamis); etc.

Track 6: Ports, Transportation and Infrastructures

Ports programs and planning; changes and future trends; relations with cities; impacts on cities and regions; reuse of industrial waterfronts; hinterland activities and links to the city; mixed uses; openness; transportation to the water and on the water; bridging waterways and their urban impacts; highways and roads along rivers and coasts; infrastructures near the water; overcoming infrastructure barriers; ports and infrastructures; flood defense and water harvesting infrastructures; dams; etc.

Key dates

24 March Deadline for abstracts - uploaded to 2014.isocarp.org
28 April Authors will receive selection results
9 June Deadline for papers (peer-review)
23 June Deadline for the other papers
30 June Deadline for authors registration and payment
21 July Deadline for PPT presentation submission
22 September Tour of Gdynia
23-26 September The Congress

For more information visit the Congress website: 2014.isocarp.org

SEE YOU IN GDYNIA!