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Special
Edition

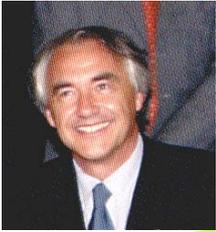


15 Years
Young Planners
Programme
1991 — 2005

'Down Memory Lane' contributions



United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization



Foreword by the President

Alfonso Vegara

The processes of globalization that the world is experiencing is leading to a closer integration of countries, cities and peoples of the world. This phenomenon has been facilitated by the innovations in information technology and the enormous reduction of costs of transport and communication, and by the breaking down of barriers that restrict the flows of goods, services, capital, knowledge, and peoples across borders.

Our cities and our city systems are in the centre of these processes. When ISoCaRP was founded in 1965, about one third of the world's population lived in urban areas. By 2025, this figure will have doubled. This is an immense global challenge, and one that the Planning Profession is acutely aware of. From small beginnings in 1965, the International Society of City and Regional Planners

(ISoCaRP) has become a truly global organisation of experienced professional planners with members in over 70 countries on the five continents.

As evidenced by the themes of our annual Congresses, ISoCaRP has always been a forward-looking organisation. As we approach the milestone of forty years – one generation – it is good to indulge in a little "looking back" and remember and honour all those who worked tirelessly to improve the human habitat, the planning profession and ISoCaRP. This is also the year in which we celebrate another milestone: 15 Years of ISoCaRP Young Planners Workshops.

By the end of last year Olusola Olufemi (Canada-Nigeria), a Young Planner participating already at the ISoCaRP YP Workshop in its beginning years, came up with the idea to give this milestone a face. She

suggested that interested Young Planners should write a piece of reflection on the way they experienced the Young Planners' Workshops and on their further career. Many Young Planners reacted enthusiastically and several of them have written short articles about their memories on their personal journey with ISoCaRP.

Our society is very proud to share those memories with all our members. We would like to thank the Young Planners very much for their contributions; contributions that are overwhelmingly positive, but also the critical note is not missing. They allow us to have a close look at their very personal ways of experiencing the Workshop.

Thank you very much to all of you!
Your 'Down Memory Lane' contributions are very precious to us.



Foreword by Vice President Young Planners

Fernando Brandao Alves

The idea of an international forum for younger planning professionals, was realized with the first Young Planners' Workshop (YPW) at the 26th ISoCaRP Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico (1991). Since then, the elder members of ISoCaRP have happily – and at times perhaps a little enviously – observed the competition for admission to the Workshop, the creative spirit of the Workshop itself, and the enthusiastic response of the participants. The YPW has become a source of meaningful debate, new ideas and rejuvenation for the Society. After 15 years, the YPW has developed its own unmistakable style. It is now not only a unique opportunity for young planning professionals and post-graduate students from around the world to meet and exchange technical and scientific knowledge, but also a basis for making life-long friends.

YPWs are brief-but-intense brainstorming and design exercises that resemble what architecture students know as 'charrettes'. In the established tradition of the YP Workshops, you could hear the following comments by the young planners:

:"...our multi-skilled and multi-cultural team kicked off our work with a lot of enthusiasm and eagerness ... After a bumpy start and a lot of deliberation of what we want to do, what we think we should do, what we could do, what we want to give comments about and what we had opinions about, we decided to make it even more complicated by facing a REAL SITUATION!"

This comment confirms how young professionals, through the Workshops, have the opportunity to develop new ideas, concepts or proposals for the area under study – as defined by Local Authorities or University Departments – that need new strategies and/or action plans.

Another benefit of the YPW is related to the quality of the new ideas, concepts or proposals that are prepared and presented. The Young Planners are required to defend their ideas in front of a critical jury, often in the Opening Session or during the General Assembly. Thus, the working teams have to prepare a well-rehearsed presentation that frequently catches the special attention of the planning authorities and the General Assembly. The host Local Authority or Planning Agency usually welcomes the fresh ideas that arise from the Workshops. Sometimes these ideas and inputs have even

been used as inputs in their own strategies for the study area.

Since 1991, UNESCO has extended generous funding for the annual "Young Planners Workshop". For 15 years, selected young planning professionals from all over the world have had the benefit of a UNESCO grant for participating in the YPW. The growing number of ISoCaRP members from the developing world is encouraging, particularly as the formative processes of the urban future of the world are taking place primarily in these countries. ISoCaRP, as an independent think tank and as a network of professionals, can make meaningful contributions to the enormous tasks ahead. In this perspective, the YPWs can play a significant role in bringing in new talent.

With UNESCO support, the proportion of participants from developing countries has increased significantly. UNESCO support to this continuing effort is vitally important and very gratefully acknowledged by ISoCaRP.

The wonderful collection of these YP's contributions speak for themselves!

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Personal Reflections by Olusola Olufemi, Nigeria

Here I was on a 13 hours flight from Lagos, Nigeria to New Delhi, India in 1987 to attend the ISoCaRP congress on 'Planning and Actions for the Homeless'. 1987 marked the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. As a young planner, fresh from school, first year in the job market with barely any experience I was conducting my research on the homeless in Nigeria at that time. In my naivety I sent in an abstract and application to the ISoCaRP committee to attend the congress. The application was accepted and I was invited as one of the young planners to present my work.

It was a great opportunity to test the waters as a fresh graduate but I was apprehensive and began to develop cold feet because I thought, 'oh! How am I going to face the large audience? I'd never done this before'. With mixed emotions, anxiety and excitement I set out on the journey. The ISo-



CaRP congress that year was prodigious and memorable (the same goes for all ISoCaRP congresses) and what I learnt during that conference is still with me today.

Since New Delhi, I have been involved with ISoCaRP in various ways. As a young planner then I was opportune to attend a project workshop in Warsaw, Poland (1990); and the Young Planners Workshops in Cordoba, Spain (1992) and Jerusalem, Israel (1996). In 1991 I entered a competition jointly sponsored by IKEA/ISoCaRP to conduct a 'Comparative Study on Urban Design in Selected Cities'. I was fortunate with three other young planners to win that competition whose output was an ISoCaRP publication in 1992. I also have contributions in the International Planning Manual.

The symbolic representation of the ISoCaRP emblem (my own interpretation) is embedded in its colours, blue (nobility

and calmness in which people collaborate), green (creativity and cross fertilization of ideas) and white (visibility and benevolence of its members). The ISoCaRP legacy, in my mind, lies in fostering planners to imbibe directly or indirectly unwritten values of **Respect, Dignity, Hard Work and Belief in Self.**

These values as a young planner transitioning from the academic life into the professional world was priceless especially when the first brush with professional life were during a 2-3 months internship with a Planning Authority. This was where you first put to test the theories taught in

the classroom into practice. ISoCaRP presents a forum for planners regardless of age, gender, colour or race to interact, share ideas and knowledge about planning.

The wealth of knowledge disseminated during the congresses and through ISoCaRP publications are outstanding. ISoCaRP provides a broad and diverse but unique perspective to planning.

Thank you ISoCaRP for the *exposure, experience, enrichment and enlightenment* on international planning matters.



Olusola is Associate Professor in Urban and Regional Planning

- Background: Obtained a Master's degree in Urban and Regional planning from the Centre for Urban and Regional Planning, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria in 1986. Proceeded to do a PhD in Urban and Regional Planning at the School of Architecture and Planning, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa; graduated in 1998.

Personal career until now:

- Worked as a Research Fellow at the Physical Development Department of the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research, Ibadan, Nigeria for about 10 years. Worked as a Chief Researcher at the Human Sciences Research Council, Pretoria, South Africa and taught at the School of Architecture and Planning, Univer-



sity of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

- Now residing in Canada and working as an independent researcher and engaged in part time teaching at the Memorial University of Newfoundland, St John's, Canada.

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Two Young Planners' Workshops attended by Aafke Nijenhuyzen, Netherlands

From 30 August to 4 September 1993 I participated in the Young Planners Workshop on the river Clyde in Glasgow. It was a nice time to work with people from other countries on a design in the congress city. The workshop was very well prepared, there were clear presentations by representative of Strathclyde Regional Council and the City of Glasgow District Council. The three groups worked on different areas, I participated in group 2 where we were asked to make a proposal for the central area. The result of a one day work with seven people you do not know before and who all speak different languages is still astonishing.

The older planners gave us the feeling that we were really welcome and we became part of an international family. The visit to the Burrell collection with live music was also an event I will never forget.

On Saturday, 4 September, we rented a small bus with 15 Young Planners and went to Lake Logan and the oldest Inn of Scotland where we had lunch and made a walk. I kept in contact with Bruno Widmer

and Gordon Kirkby. There also was a true romance, Laura Rentzen married Andrew Fleming. It was all sunshine in Glasgow. Two times I went back to Scotland but the weather has never been so beautiful.

In 1996 I participated in the Young Planners Workshop in Jerusalem. I knew the concept, so that was not a great surprise. The place was impressive, so much history, fight and culture in a compact place. Participants from Yugoslavia had an advantage here, they knew how planning can be used in war. In Holland we had the struggle against water, but not against people in planning. The Young Planners Workshop was well prepared by Hein Struben, Helena Heyning, Prof. Salomon and Ronni Ellenblum. The four groups all worked on the same area, the Mamilla area, located between the Old and the New City of Jerusalem. We worked near the location, at Moshe Safdie's office. Because the task was the same for all groups it was



nice to see the difference in solutions. I found it a unique country but not a country easy to live or work in.

Some elder Young Planners among which Maurits Schaafsma and Andreas Schneider organised TAN, a Temporary Autonomous Network of professionals interested in future planning (active for four years from 1997). This was an inspiring study group that made it possible to be still active in international working teams while I was already older than 35.

I am glad that I have joined those two Young Planners' workshops. I became an ISOcARP member and I am still enjoying this. I think back to the Young Planners' workshops nostalgically and with happiness.



Opening of minds and hearts to many cultures by Hari Srinivas, Japan (India)

ISOcARP overwhelmed me at first. It was just after I had finished my teaching work at the Asian Institute of Technology,

in Bangkok, and before starting off my Ph.D. in Japan. All those European faces talking a lot of both theoretical and practical planning issues – initially I did not have my wits around me to understand what on earth they were saying. They seemed to live in their own world.

Its only now, several years later, and many congresses and meetings past, that I can reflect on the effect that ISOcARP has had on me. Being an Indian and an Asian, it helped me open up perspectives and viewpoints that I had not yet been exposed to – yes, you do read newspapers and watch TV and

meet the occasional 'foreigner', but visiting the different countries that ISOcARP met in, opened me up to a whole new world or set of worlds actually!

And ISOcARP's own multi-cultural mix of members made me realize in the real sense, the meaning of the real global family we all were.

I think that is the key message I will cherish with me today as ISOcARP celebrates its many years of existence – the opening of minds and hearts to the many cultures I watched and interacted with, and the realization that we are indeed part of the same 'global community'. Being part of ISOcARP ultimately gave me the confidence, the self-assurance and the ability to develop professionally – because I had interacted with my peers. I had seen them, talked to them, and learnt from them. I had also laughed and ate and travelled

Aafke is Head of Development of the City of Nieuwerkerk a/d IJssel (NL)

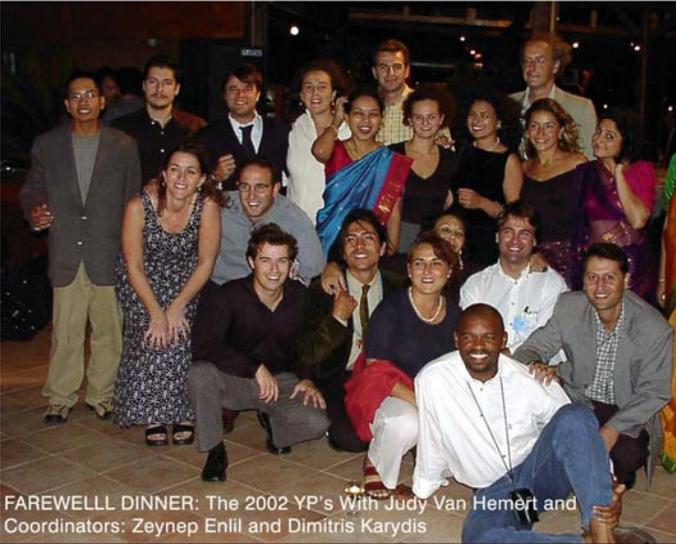
and drank with them.

I remember that I had my first glass of wine – several that night, actually! – in an ISOcARP pre-congress dinner (and promptly spent the rest of the night in the toilet, of course).

And here I am today, an officer of the U.N., working all over the world on a range of topics and themes that I never imagined I would be working on (my family still thinks I am an architect). But I owe not a small part of that to the opening of minds and to listening to different ideas and viewpoints that ISOcARP afforded me. That is what I will cherish as I move on with my life.

Hari is Architect and Urban Planner. He is Coordinator of the UNEP Global Development Research Center; he is a visiting Professor at the Osaka University and Chiba University of Commerce.

12TH YOUNG PLANNERS' WORKSHOP ATHENS, GREECE. SEPTEMBER 2002



FAREWELL DINNER: The 2002 YP's With Judy Van Hemert and Coordinators: Zeynep Enlil and Dimitris Karydis

RE-ASSEMBLING THE CITY: Establishing Urban Continuity in Athens



TECHNICAL TOUR

Front row seated: Engela Meyer (South Africa), Karla Pagaza with husband (Mexico), Bruno Marquez (Portugal), Iram Farooq (USA), Sibusiso Buthelezi (South Africa), 2nd row: Albert Mugenyi (Nigeria), Ricardo Veludo (Portugal), Eduardo Ortiz-Jasso (Mexico), Paola Imbesi with husband (Italy), Zeynep Enlil (Coordinator, Turkey), Rachna Vohra (India), Piyali Bandyopadhyay (India), Last row: Asli Cagatay (Turkey), Dino Juloya (USA)
Other YP's Not in Photo: Ceren Tan (Turkey), Chris Makrakis-Kachlios (Greece), Sotirios Millonis (Greece), Spyridon Anastasopoulos (Greece), Aimilia Alexandropoulou (Greece), Aldo Vargas (Poland), Satvros Mentos



THE PARTHENON AT NIGHT (Post Technical Tour)



A LOT HARD WORK:

Trying to Manage "COMPLEXITY" in Three Days



AFTER THE WORK WAS DONE: General Assembly Presentation



BUT ALSO SOME CHILDPLAY:

Because All Work and No Play Makes a Dull YP



RELAXING MOMENT: Post Lunch Excitement



ACROPOLIS

By: Dino Juloya

15 Years Young Planners



Júlia Lourenço, Portugal

I participated just once at a Young Planners' Workshop a long

time ago in the mid-nineties in Prague... a memorable souvenir in my technical up-bringing.

I remember the hard work but also the fun! The exciting discussions and the hectic time to produce something presentable to the Seniors!

I revive part of that atmosphere at Young Planners' Presentations whenever I attend an ISoCaRP Congress. But I only had again this very special fun at the Implementation Lab in Delft promoted by ISoCaRP, once again innovatively!

Still to this day, I remember the discussions between YPs, some vivid situations still come to my mind, the nice comments by Max van den Berg, but contact is more or less lost. That is, it is renovated if needed: last year, a YP Colleague John Leonard visited me in Oporto. Along came his wife as well as his boss and around 20 colleagues of their architectural London firm. I felt it like a wonderful privilege to show my town to them and learn with and from them.

Still to this day, I keep going to the same Czech Technical University building where I was received by the ISoCaRP Secretariat – Hello Judy! Were you there Gaby? I keep walking around Prague without a map. I feel it a little bit my town, not the tourist main routes but the other routes where a puzzled bus

**Diagnosis: Not capable to reform?!
Some thoughts on our profession
and organisation
by Andreas Schneider, Switzerland**

Jerusalem 1995 ...

Joining the 1995 young planners' workshop in Jerusalem was an amazing experience for me. Instead of just carrying out the harmless urban design exercise that our hosts prepared for us, we entered discussion about the political significance of the site situated exactly on the "green line" near old Jerusalem's Jaffa gate. - And got a very deep insight in the settlement strategies Israel's planners and politicians executed at the beginning of second intifada. Being a

driver will tell you: "no tourist comes here!" In July 2005, already my fourth stay in Prague, three of my ERASMUS students studied the same area I did when I was a Young Planner: Bubny-Holesovice and the facing river banks. Not the three days I did but rather three months. It was funny discussing the same area with them, a problematic flooding area that I still recall being told in Prague at YP Workshop that it was playground for planners... I asked their Czech Supervisor, my Colleague Prof. Ivan Horky, why this area as it did not seem to me the best suited to test my model. And the answer was for the fun!

Yes, problematic areas give us, planners, the best fun... Will the Olympic Games in 2016 or better 2020 take place in this area? Make your guesses but things are on the move anyway!

Still to this day, I show my University Students the reports of YPs, mine and the ten years one, to thrill and motivate them. And I know that the fun some students say they have in making the work for my classes, comes also from my participation at YPs' Workshops and the positive feeling we can produce something in a short period of time!

Still to this day, I am looking forward to find the right student to nominate to be at the Young Planners. I look forward to their joyful sharing in this special interactive learning atmosphere!
Agustina Bessa-Luís, a famous writer from my town, Oporto, gave me and my planner colleagues at the turn of the twentieth anniversary of CCRN (the Land Use and Development Agency for the Northern Region of Portugal) a wonderful text. It ended like "As

mixed group of young planners from Europe, North America and the Near East, we experienced amazing professional exchange, paralysing discussions on where to go for dinner and had a lot of fun together. For me, this ISoCaRP young planners' workshop was a real eye-opener in every aspect.

As great the young planners' workshop was, as disappointing the subsequent congress itself was for us: It was a thematic potpourri of anything but contributions on the very congress topic (water as a key resource for development). It was an assembly of well-renowned old planners, almost lacking the really pro-

Love is paid with Love, Land will talk about us through the Works we will leave behind."

I truly believe that Young Planners' Workshops are essentially a MATTER OF LOVE: Love to Land; Love to Territory Planning; Love to Young People.

ISoCaRP is to be thankfully acknowledged for keeping this already traditional event: the Young Planners' Workshop. We, ISoCaRPians, are like a big family, scattered all over the World. We take pleasure in seeing each other annually or not so often. It is indeed different from other Societies I belong to. At first, this feeling estranged me but now I cherish it. As we Young Planners grow old, we see more and more the importance of Love and Understanding. I go back to my former PhD Supervisor Manuel da Costa Lobo, to his Scottish connection Percy Marshall and the plan they did for Oporto Region together with other ISoCaRP planners such as Derek Lyddon, Sofia Leonard, to their inspirer Patrick Geddes, and I see my networking through the times.

My actual networking does follow some of our ISoCaRP connections.

I truly believe that the Young Planners' Workshops are a very important opportunity for this networking, but even more important, for real hands-on planning activities performed in a short time, high intensity, great fun!

I can only wish that more and more YOUNG PLANNERS keep sharing this unique experience!

Júlia is Professor and Civil Engineer at the Comissao de Coordenacao Regiao Do Norte, Porto -Portugal

ductive middle-age group (that would be most interesting for young planners to network with). And the participants seemed much more interested in the tourism and leisure aspects than in any serious content discussion. For me, it looked rather like a big family meeting than like a professional congress. So we started to organise our own programme, together with some elderly young planners.

One of them, Luuk Boelens, provoked us with his remark that he considers the classical ISoCaRP planners as neither willing nor able to adapt to contempo-

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(Schneider, continued)

rary challenges. And that it might be better to let this discipline die and create a new one: Revolution instead of reform! Another elderly young planner, Maurits Schaafsma, was rapporteur of the workshop where we presented the draft Guidelines of Swiss Spatial Development 1997 (in comparison to the 4th Nota of the Netherlands). A concept that, like all others since 1942, was strongly based on the "decentral concentration" thought - a wishful thinking that never worked properly in the past. And that I then criticised being against all logic of a globalised economy, neo-liberal political system and a mainly private transport-based spatial behaviour.

... and 10 years later

In the ten years since then, my professional profile changed from senior assistant at the ETH and owner of a small business, via officer for urban and economic development in a medium-sized town to senior project manager in one of the big planning firms in Switzerland. In that time I joined several ISoCaRP congresses (like Gelsenkirchen, Azores, Utrecht, Cairo, Geneva). Even though my motivation for this changed from the

professional exchange aspect more and more to that of a (very expensive) "family meeting" and congress tourism... It is nice to see each other every now and then, and have a good time together. For a good professional exchange, there exist as interesting opportunities within other networks (like INURA, TAN etc.) that cost much less than an ISoCaRP congress.

For me the most productive outcome of ISoCaRP still is, that the Jerusalem congress led to the creation of the Temporary Autonomous Network (1997 - 2001). A spin off of elderly young planners truly interested in an in-depth discussion on the future development of the planning profession, including some of the participants of the Jerusalem congress. And that we got the opportunity to present our results and propose some conceptual and organisational innovations at the ISoCaRP congress 2001 in Utrecht.

And the most disappointing point on the other hand is, that ISoCaRP - in a ten years overview - seems to be anything else but a learning organisation concerning the perception of their environment or its organisational matters. Even though the current (and former) president did a proper analysis and has developed a whole bunch of entrepreneurial ideas for ISoCaRP's renewal, most of the necessary dynamic

seems obstructed by filibustering functionaries in the EXCO. And although ISoCaRP organises its 41st congress this year, the lack of standards and steady guidance to the secretariat leads to an expensive re-invention of all congress organisation aspects every year - and the replication of old faults every now and then. But never mind, Swiss planners are not better in learning from the past. Since the 1997 spatial development concept for Switzerland didn't work, we are just now discussing the "new" one. - Based on a revision of the outdated "decentral concentration" paradigm again! Too little learning ability to cope with the challenges of the future!

Looking back, I more and more have the feeling that Luuk Boelens was right when he said that the classical planners and ISoCaRP are neither willing nor able to adapt to contemporary challenges as fast as necessary. Perhaps it is really worth creating something new for younger professionals, instead of investing energy in trying to reform existing structures. - As ISoCaRP did when it split off from IFHP forty years ago... .

*Andreas is Senior Project Manager/
Consultant, Architect and
Town Planner, Brugg, Switzerland*

Recollections of a (former) Young Planner by Amit Prothi, USA (India)



The Young Planners' Workshop has truly been one of my most memorable experiences, both in a professional capacity, and on a personal level. I had the opportunity to be a young planner twice - first at the 35th Congress in Gelsenkirchen (Germany), and then at the 36th Congress in Cancun (Mexico). In both cases, I learnt some valuable professional lessons, and made friends who I continue to stay in touch with today.

Originally from India, where I did my undergraduate studies in architecture, I have been living in the US for the past 12 years. Subsequent to completing gradu-

ate studies at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, I have worked in the planning field - first in the public sector, and then in private sector consulting.

My interest in ISoCaRP stemmed from a continuing interest in understanding how communities evolve around the globe. The Young Planners' Workshop provided the perfect forum where, through hands-on experience, I got an opportunity to experience how planning is approached in different parts of the world.

Germany 1999: Art of Communication

While working on a redevelopment plan for a vacant coal mine at Gelsenkirchen, I got into an interesting debate with a team-mate from China. For the first two days of the workshop, my team-mate stayed extremely focused on the physical aspects of the redevelopment plan, while I kept pushing for an economic focus. On the third and last day, with not a whole lot of sleep between us, we had a breakthrough. He accepted that economics could shape and be shaped by decisions affecting the physical environment, and I learnt a valuable lesson - to be able to communicate



ideas with professionals whose approach to planning problems is different than mine. And I learnt about 'dao' - a Chinese expression symbolizing change.

Mexico 2000: Diversity in Planning

Cancun proved another rich ground for learning. While working with a group of young planners from South Africa, I realized for the first time in my life how planning had been used as a tool for

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segregation. And how the new generation of contemporary planners is pushing to eradicate the very boundaries that their profession had helped build during the Apartheid era. I also remember noticing, in particular, the interaction between two young planners from South Africa – one white and one black. It seemed that by interacting in an environment that was out of their normal realm, they were able to discuss issues and address stereotypes that they may not have been comfortable to discuss back home.



While in Mexico, I also learnt of the 'zocalo'. A Mexican version of a central square, it provides an outdoor gathering place for activities such as markets or political rallies. The Zocalo in Mexico

Haydée Beltran Uran, Colombia

Haber tenido la grandiosa oportunidad de formar parte de su comunidad para el conocimiento no solo individual sino de progreso social, es una de las mejores cosas que han ocurrido en mi vida. El modelo de excelencia impuesto por ISoCaRP a lo largo del tiempo, resulta indispensable para la configuración de un paradigma homogéneo del desarrollo social y humano, acorde con la universalización del mercado y las relaciones económicas, lo que permite al Planificador Urbano, recrear su quehacer dentro de un discurso racional en el contexto del saber y la práctica humana, como principio de la comunicación pedagógica, razón de ser de la sociedad humana del futuro.

Esta doble dimensión la viví como YP en Escocia y Australia al construir debates de conversación abierta sobre problemas reales a "solucionar" seleccionados por la experiencia profesional de la dirección de ISoCaRP de manera interinstitucional, para unificar criterios

City, for example, is surrounded by some of the city and country's most prominent buildings and is constantly the hub for formal and informal activity. Our challenge, as young planners in Cancun, was to create a similar space for a portion of the city that was earmarked for substantial growth in the future.

On the lighter side...

Not that ISoCaRP workshops were just a serious affair - in Mexico, young planners from the local host committee went out of their way to ensure we had some fun too. For the 10 days that we worked during the workshop and the conference, we enjoyed five nights of dancing (much to the envy of some of the 'mature' planners!). We had added *salsa* and *merengue* to our vocabulary, and footwork, by the time we left Mexico!!!

And now...

Since participating at the two Young Planners' Workshops, I have moved as a project manager to EDAW, Inc., an internationally renowned planning and landscape architecture firm. I currently manage projects that range in scope from environmental planning to urban design. The lessons I learnt in Germany and Mexico – of

sobre la aplicación interdisciplinaria de acciones. En estos trabajos, es mi apreciación personal, hay un enriquecimiento total, por una parte, de la docencia con la práctica y por otra del propio proceso productivo con su perfeccionamiento científico, soportado en los debates que permiten revelar la información y los criterios a que se llegue mediante la toma de posiciones sobre distintos ángulos de un problema.

Sin duda alguna, la capacidad de discutir y convencer que se fortalece de manera maravillosa en estos trabajos como YP potencia los conocimientos, perfecciona hábitos y habilidades de actividad creadora en beneficio del desarrollo de las tareas y esto lo digo porque fui la primera Socióloga de un país latinoamericano, Colombia, Medellín, que llegó a participar en este proceso, situación que revelaba enormes diferencias, pero es precisamente el patrimonio cultural el que se presenta como ajeno a los debates sobre la modernidad y constituyen el recurso "menos sospechoso" para garantizar la complicidad social. "Ese conjunto de bienes y prácticas tradicionales que nos iden-

how to approach a redevelopment strategy, of how to communicate with professionals with foci other than mine, of how to look at successes from other parts of the world – are proving very useful in my current work.

The workshops have also touched me on a personal level. I have made several good friends from over 15 countries ranging from Japan, to Belgium, to South Africa. In fact, last year, I enjoyed some homemade spaghetti with Giuseppe Occhipinti (in Rome), and walked through historic Sintra with Bruno Marques (in Portugal).



Amit is a Planner and works in a private Planning Firm in Washington, USA

tifican como nación o como pueblo es parecido como una donación algo que recibimos del pasado con tal prestigio simbólico que no cabe discutirlo" (Canclini 1990), y es que el reconocimiento del mismo que conlleva a una identificación con él, implica que éste fundamentalmente, se "deja leer", se hace reconocible y por tanto asequible, gracias a que de tal forma se aviene como lenguaje manifiesto en: símbolos y en la manera como se plasman en formas de ocupación del territorio por parte de los distintos grupos que lo hacen suyo.

Ahora, cuando formo parte del ISoCaRP adulto, la vida me ha indicado su continuidad desde la confrontación, en un principio de angustia y de sufrimiento, al vivir en carne propia los rigores de la violencia y el conflicto armado en mi país, los cuales deben ser analizados para una reflexión histórica razonada, la cual plasmé en el 37 Congreso Internacional en la sesión 3 Cyberspace and

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the loss of concentration, con el nombre de Displacement and construction (Beltran Uran, continued) of city. Emergency territory.

Ahora corresponde al Planificador Urbano, partir de una serie de contradicciones ideológicas, políticas, culturales,



Having been to Egypt before, I was excited to return, especially with some greater purpose than just traveling. ISoCaRP provided the perfect reason to revisit Cairo, a professional mission.

I was interested in participating in the Young Planners Workshop in order

sociales, económicas y tecnológicas dar cuenta de los procesos de desarraigo, desapego, pérdida del sentido de pertenencia y de identidad que dan cuenta de la grave crisis por la que pasan las localidades y con ella los grupos humanos que las habitan, tanto a nivel micro (barrial o sectorial), como a nivel macro, abarcando así la ciudad entera. Por tal motivo la de-

terminación, comprensión, potenciación o transformación, según el caso, de la forma de ser de los distintos grupos en sus "ahí" respectivos, resulta crucial, no sólo para la Planeación Urbana, sino para la efectiva y auténtica habitación del mundo.

Haydée is Sociologist and Urbanist and works for the Municipio de Medellín, Colombia

Down Memory Lane by Brett Clavio, USA

to share my experiences and knowledge of land use and transportation planning, and to learn from others.

Indeed, I learned a great deal from the workshop, from the sponsors, the coordinators, and the other young planners, not to mention the Congress itself. What a fantastic experience!

It was a real honor to later be accepted as a regular member of the Society. Since then, my personal career has remained relatively the same. But my insight into the world of planning internationally has grown tremendously. As my career

continues to develop, I shall be mindful of my peers at ISoCaRP, and strive to be as professional and esteemed as so many of the Society's members are. What a great society it is! One couldn't wish for such a great group of friends. Until next time...

Brett is Planner and Architect with a private planning office Oakland, USA

The better Qualification the better Chance in Career by Irene Rubitzki, Austria



Today, 30 June 2005, is an important day in my personal career. It is the last official day in my previous

job, working for the City of Salzburg at the urban planning and traffic department. Tomorrow I will start to work for the Austrian Energy Agency in Vienna, working on sustainable and ecological traffic-projects for the Austrian federal ministry of environment. A great chance and a big challenge for me. Definitely the Young Planners Program in Cairo 2003 and the Urban Task Force in La Rioja 2004 are some important steps in my personal career, these programs enabled me to have a better qualification than other colleagues.

Warm and sincere thanks to ISoCaRP, especially Ric Stephens, Milica Bajic and Judy van Hemert, for providing me this opportunity!

Let me give you a short overview about me, my career and the most important projects I was working in: I grew up in Linz, Upper Austria, finished my A-levels in 1990 and decided to study urban planning in Vienna. During my studies I had several part-time jobs e.g. working for the City of Linz in the urban planning department, on surveying and for several small or medium size municipalities in the field of zoning and urban development.

After finishing my studies I had great luck and started to work with the City of Vienna, advising Viennese Politicians of the municipal council and the Viennese Parliament in the field of urban and traffic planning. (Vienna is as well a municipality as a federal state.) This job enabled me to work in the strategic part of planning, in the legislation of a federal state, having a good overview of several parts of planning, getting to know the whole political and ad-

ministrative structure and many decision makers of the administration of Vienna. In 2000 I made the examination in urban planning for the "Specially Certified Engineers", which enable Austrian engineers to run a "civil engineers office". With this special qualification I changed my job and started to work for a private company, being one of the project managers of the S 1, a motorway which will surround Vienna in the southern parts. For this motorway one of the first and largest environmental impact assessments of Austria has been made, the closeness to urban settlements and the routing and configuration of the motorway was an enormous challenge.



Another project of this civil engineers office was to plan a commuter railway

15 Years Young Planners

(Rubitzky, continued)

system for the city and the suburban region of Salzburg. Getting into contact with the City of Salzburg they offered me a job in the urban planning department. My main project for the last three years was to organize an international competition on urban planning and design for a square in the heart of the City of Salzburg next to the very famous houses of the Salzburg Festival and to start to realize all four parts of the competition (redesign of the square, redesign the historic garden of the old university, build a new staircase to the major auditorium of the university, use the ground floor of the university in an adequate way of this important place). As the project manager I had to coordinate all divisions of the city-administration of Salzburg as well as all the external partners e.g. stakeholders, architects and civil engineers.

Working for the city of Salzburg I started to get in contact with ISoCaRP and the Young Planners Programme. I got a scholarship for Cairo and overall it was a great experience working with interna-

tional colleagues coming from all over the world, having on the one hand the same or similar degree but on the other hand a completely different cultural background.

From my point of view it was amazing, that the way of finding solutions and the whole process of working was not as different as I thought. The study area in the heart of Cairo, a mega city being at the edge of Africa and Asia, having the important Islamic culture but living from tourists coming especially from Europe and the U.S. was an extremely interesting situation.

Getting a second chance to work in an international field with colleagues coming from all over the world was to take part in the first Urban Task Force in La Rioja in Spain. The big difference to the Young Planners was, that we were a very small group of five planners working for a rather long time of 9 days together. During this



First Urban Task Force, La Rioja

long period we had enough time to get to know the way of working of every member of the group, discuss different solutions and find a proper way for the small village of Enciso to enforce tourism on dinosaur footprints.

Thanks a lot to ISoCaRP and all members of ISoCaRP who enabled us Young Planners this possibilities of qualification!

Irene is an Urban Planner and works for the Austrian Energy Agency, Vienna

Journeys through ISoCaRP by Victor Terrazas, Mexico

Patrick Geddes, you all must be familiar with him, otherwise please read something about him. Well while taking some lectures at the Patrick Geddes centre in Edinburgh I got to know about ISoCaRP by Sophia Leonard who was involved in the meeting of the congress in Glasgow and a School-mate, Malvina Arrarte, was participating in the young planners Programme.

I tried to also participate and although it was too late by then ISoCaRP gave me the opportunity to present a paper. It was rejected; besides there was a Mexican selected already.

A couple of years later, precisely on the closing date I had a look at the ISoCaRP homepage. The subject to be considered in the young planners programme in Germany was derelict mines sites, the topic of my final project in Edinburgh, and I decided to submit an abstract which was accepted. My trip to Germany was arranged and I had the opportunity to visit some friends in Berlin, Hannover and finally get into Gelsenkirchen.

Can you imagine: a whole table full of sausages and beer - this was our welcome in Gelsenkirchen. Everything was perfect in this Young Planners programme and Con-

gress. Perhaps the only aspect I would reconsider is that the workshops could have taken place in the same building. All trips and meetings gave us the opportunity to make friends, visit interesting sites and projects and so much to thank for.

Two years later, 2001 (Planning in the information Age): The YPs subject was: science and technology parks. Just perfect, it was my dissertation subject in the master course. I submitted a paper and was accepted.

Here I am at 7:15 in Chihuahua airport looking at a TV screen. An airplane crashed into a building, and at that same moment while looking at the smog another one crashes. Lineu Castello was in the Twin towers on the 10th of September. My story is maybe just half of what he can tell to us.

I got onto the plane. When I arrived in Mexico City there was a big chaos, our flight was cancelled. I had organized everything so perfectly, just to be in time to meet another young planner at Schiphol Airport in the Netherlands and take the train together to Enschede. I finally took the next flight, nine hours of delay. What a surprise, they changed me into business class. We flew through Venezuela instead through the U.S. air space. Could

you imagine Charles de Gaulle airport? How could I arrange the flight to Amsterdam now? It was not that bad after all, just hundreds of people changing flights but they managed to put me on a flight within the next two hours. No welcome party for me anymore, I got to sleep and ... see you tomorrow.

In the morning I was running through the campus, came back for breakfast and then to the Telematica Institute. The four groups worked on the options for integration of the business park with the campus, but in this case each group had guidelines for their proposals. It was a strange environment in comparison to the working environment in Gelsenkirchen, but nevertheless it gave us the opportunity to see results which varied from practical to theoretical ones. We had all kinds of GIS material to work with, so there were no limits on this.

Now we had to get to Utrecht. There our hotel was terrible. The bus driver of our site tour got lost and never found the way back so she left us on the outskirts of Utrecht and we had to take two local buses to get back to the hotel. I was so tired then and jet-sick - no more running for me anymore.

15 Years Young Planners

(Terrazas, continued)

This time the workshops took place in the same building and we could choose from several subjects. This was very good. We had a magnificent dinner in Amsterdam where I finally met Prof. Lineu Castello and gave him a slide that I had taken during the final dinner in Gelsenkirchen. In one of those photographs appears Dirk Engelke as the Post It Man in order to be present in a photo that he had taken himself. We were delighted to assist at the performance of the Indonesian dance group Cast Ramayan, including Judy Van Hemert.

Time to extend my stay and get into the Implementation Lab held hosted by the Delft University of Technology. I took my time and crossed through Gouda to see the cheese town. Then to Rotterdam. I took the train which was supposed to stop in Delft but did not; it went all the way to the Hague although I had asked before. I explained the train officer and they let me get on the train back to Delft for free. If you have never been in Delft you must visit the town/ Utrecht center is nice, but Delft is just

A walk down memory lane with ISoCaRP by Nupur Prothi Khanna India

If there is one sentiment that I associate with ISoCaRP it is the gratitude of a Young Planner being encouraged to find her niche in 'Planning this World'!

The Young Planner programme has been a unique and beneficial outlet for scores of planning professionals like me trying to find their footing in the professional realm. What better way to do this than be made to interact with a group of equally young and equally ambitious young professionals early on in their chosen carriers. I am sure most of us would acknowledge the benefit we have derived from these interactions, formal and informal with the young and the experienced. ISoCaRP could truly be called a trendsetter in this effort as this concept has caught the fancy of many an organisation where it has found mention. During my academic tenure at the University of York, U.K, the Alumni Society was quite taken in to start a similar forum for the young conservation professionals during their annual meets though I am not aware whether it eventually bore fruit.

The entire experience of working with an

lovely. So it was the little hotel. They prepared your bed and leave you a piece of delicious chocolate on top of it.

I walked through the city, came back and rested for a while. When I woke up it was dark and I almost lost the opportunity to visit the canal house of Prof Nico Roorda. I just had a glass of wine of the house. It was a Welcome drink.

The Randstand South West area was the subject of the study and this allowed us to visit some sites in the area. This time we had a whole boat for us with waiters and food and wine; can you imagine going through the Rhine river in Rotterdam's Port. The discussion was now with the most recognised planners in Europe.

While in Holland, I was invited to visit Antwerpen in Belgium, hometown of another young planner, Pieter van den Broeck. His family received me for a couple of days so I could visit the city. Other cities visited were: Dusseldorf, Brussels and Eindhoven.

Going back, to my surprise, my luggage did not arrive in Paris. So I took my backpack with some tulip bulbs and I took my final flight to Chihuahua. I was not angry to loose the bag and the souvenirs inside the

luggage; my strength was to have carried it through so many places and trains. Anyway, the bag came three days later and not a single thing was missing.

Looking back, every project development was done in a short time and it required plenty of energy of each of us, but each time it was incredible. It must have marked our professional output from then on.

After having attended several congresses of multidisciplinary subjects, I can say that ISoCaRP congresses represent the most complete programmes of all and the complete involvement of local committees. Certainly under the guidance of the secretariat.

Victor is working on architectural design and regional planning strategies in Chihuahua and Monterrey, Mexico. He is participating in a programme of CYTED (Ciencia y tecnologia para el desarrollo), an Iberamerican organization that is in charge of finding solutions for the inclusion of mining activities in the developments of the territory.



international group of young professionals, the exchange of ideas and working through the night to get our presentations in order was a unique experience at that stage of my career. Looking back it is unimaginable how one could have felt so comfortable, worked in complete harmony and come away with lasting friendships from such a brief experience with complete strangers to begin with. But the fact remains that these interactions have resulted in long standing associations to the extent that I can confidently claim now to have one friend in every continent! Amongst them, Alicia, Giuseppe and Andreas have been gracious hosts helping me discover their cities on my travels through Europe.

In the Indian context we have a brigade of young planners- Anshu and Manu who encouraged me to gain this experience and I in turn introduced Amit, Roli and Rupa thus each contributing in our own modest capacity to ensure that more professionals continue to benefit from this programme.

The Special moments.....

The experience that I would keep with me through my years as a practicing design professional is my first encounter with ISoCaRP. This was in September of 1998 where as a fledging professional I had been invited to join the band wagon of Young Planners at the Azores Congress in Portugal. The hard work and equally dedicated fun in our daily routine in one of the most exquisite locales is an episode difficult to let slip from memory. Added to it the ISoCaRP Award (UNESCO) I received for my paper and presentation has permanently etched this event in my mind.

15 Years Young Planners

(Nupur Prothi continued)

The subsequent Young Planners Workshops were in some ways an extension of my first experience and in others they carved a unique niche in my psyche. The Congress at Gelsenkirchen had a lasting professional impression on my career as a Landscape Architect and Conservation Professional and I continue in my interest on the rehabilitation of industrial regions as shown through the success of the IBA Emscher project. The Cairo Congress was special due to the hard work that went into it as a rapporteur and I came away learning much more than the con-



tribution I had intended to make as part of my responsibility towards the workshop.

This is also surely the time and opportunity to thank amongst a host of very special friends, Judy and Gaby for their unstinting support at every step of the way. Their prompt responses, their rushing to my aid

to help solve visa and travel issues and making that every extra bit of effort at every moment has helped redefine efficiency in my dictionary.

If there is one thing I take away from each encounter with ISoCaRP may it be as a Young Planner or in any other capacity, it is the mutual respect, regard and affection that exists in so large and diverse a body of professionals. Kudos to ISoCaRP and best wishes for continuing with their good work especially their contribution towards the development of the fledglings in the Planning Community.

*Nupur is a Private Planner,
Landscape & Conservation Architect,
New Delhi - India*



**My dear
ISoCaRP
by
Ricardo
Veludo
Portugal**

My first contact with the ideals and principles that inspire ISoCaRP was in the university classroom, through one of its founders, Prof. Manuel da Costa Lobo, by the time I was his student. In 1996, I met two other members of ISoCaRP: Adriana dal Cin and Javier de Mesones (Spain). They were, with da Costa Lobo, active participants in the Scientific Committee of the first International Meeting of Planning Students, promoted by NET (Territorial Engineering students association, at the Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisbon) in Portugal in the same year.

This international meeting generated an impulse for the constitution of several university based planning students associations, which, in some cases, became ISoCaRP institutional members. The link between these groups of students and ISoCaRP was very much nursed by Adriana dal Cin, Javier de Mesones and Manuel da Costa Lobo, who were and continue to be a strong inspiration for all of us.

My first direct experience as a young planner in one ISoCaRP congress was six years later, in 2002, in Athens, just before the Olympic Games. It was fantastic!!! It was an intensive and delicious challenge to work on a real case study, in a foreign country, with a group of people with very different cultural, academic and professional experience, in a foreign language,

during a very short period of available time (about 72 hours).

I remember the creativity, the freedom to experiment with new ideas and concepts, the hard work, the pressure, the discussions, the enthusiasm, the challenge built up a shared vision of problems and solutions, the jokes and comic situations. I also remember the care of the ISoCaRP secretariat and the great job done by the workshop coordinators: Zeynep Enlil (Turkey) and Dimitris Karidis (Greece). The success of the cooperation between Zeynep and Dimitris gains a stronger sense considering the context of tension in the official relationships between Greece and Turkey governments.

The result of the Young Planners' work pleased the participants in the congress, and we were very happy about that. However, besides the relevance of the results of the workshop, the most enriching aspect of this model is the process of cooperation, creativity, solidarity and competition combined in a very healthy manner.

In 2003, I had the chance to assist the YP workshop coordinator for the Cairo congress in 2003, Ak Gunduz Eronat (United Arab Emirates). It was a new great experience, giving me the possibility to work with the other YPs and to share some of the concerns and action of the coordinators to provide the best possible work environment to all participants. The Cairo YP workshop happened just a few months after the US major attack to Iraq, in the context of the war and retaliation for the 11th of September (2001) terrorist attacks. Terrorism and the war were the big issues at the international level. Many questions were raised by that time about

what was happening to the international law and security, the role of the United Nations, religions, international development gaps, politics and diplomacy, economic interests in war and terrorism, etc. In this context I found myself very ignorant about all this. I became tremendously curious to know more about the developing countries, Islamic religion, culture and people. Cairo was, in this sense, clearly a discovery of a new part of the world for me. I was the contact with the Islamic religion, culture, way of life and thinking. I mainly talked with colleagues from Egypt, Togo, Senegal, Burkina Faso. With my new Egyptian friends I went for meditation to a local mosque, for lunch in a restaurant where the low wages workers usually go, for party on a disco-boat, etc.

I sincerely believe that the kind of work that is being done by ISoCaRP for the YP is helping to build bridges for a better international understanding, peace and respect for the diversity of cultures and people.

The friends I gained in ISoCaRP, both young and senior planners, the increasing quality of the discussions and papers presented, plus the possibility to discover new countries and cultures became an irresistible attraction for this society.

Congratulations and thank you to ISoCaRP pioneers and to all that make this international society improve each year with their work, commitment and energy.

*Ricardo is City & Regional Planner and
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Association of Municipalities of Alentej*