Secretary General Pablo Vaggione

23 October 2009
Today

• Realigning the strategic focus
• Membership development
• Reaching out: partnerships
Realigning the strategic focus
A key moment for the planning profession...

- Urban area to double by 2030
- The environment is really under pressure
- Poverty an urban issue
- Financial constraints after Fall 08 crash
- Urban development is faster than planning procedures
and an opportunity we must step up to

- Planning more needed than ever
- Planning can be the central discipline as we face the challenges of urbanisation
- Holistic, transversal, and dynamic
- A time for focused thought and action
Realigning our strategic focus

• From the planning profession in itself…

• ...to the outcome of the planning profession
Knowledge for Better Cities
Knowledge for Better Cities

Values
Skills
Network
Experience
Commitment
Knowledge for Better Cities

Values for Villages
Skills for Towns
Network for Metropolitan areas
Experience for Regions
Commitment for Rural settlements
How can ISOCARP help face the challenges?

- Proactive, hands-on approach
- Members with significant field experience
- Credibility and commitment
- Diversity, global presence
- The ISOCARP triple perspective
The ISOCARP Triple Perspective

Our members' activities are distributed evenly between:

- academia
- government, organisations and agencies
- consultancies and the private sector

This allows ISOCARP to look at planning issues from a multi-angle perspective linking theory, policy and practice.
Membership development
Membership: picking up since 2007
Membership: growing in diversity....

- Europe: 54%
- America (N & LAC): 12%
- Asia: 13%
- Africa: 11%
- Middle East: 7%
- Oceania: 3%
...year after year: new members by region, 2009

- Asia: 38%
- Europe: 24%
- Middle East: 31%
- Africa: 3%
- America (N&LAC): 3%
- Oceania: 1%
Congress attendance x2 in 8 years

Graph showing attendance at ISOCARP congresses from 1999 to 2009, with peaks at Antwerp (2007), Dalian (2008), and Porto (2009), and notable city points including Gelsenkirchen, Utrecht, Bilbao, Istanbul, Dalian, and Porto.
Membership and congress attendance

[Graph showing attendance over years]
Congress participants: increasing presence from developing countries
ISOCARP 2010 CENSUS

• Please help us update our database – our most important asset
• We will be contacting you in the next months
• Let us hear form you!
Reaching out: partnerships
Why do we need partnerships?

- Realigning the focus on the outcome of planning makes even more evident that we are not in this alone
- We need to develop partnerships in order to better fulfil the purpose of planning
- Partnerships add visibility and credibility
- More value to our members
Reaching out to reinforce the triple perspective

Consultancies

Professional associations

Industry

Government, policy makers

Multilateral organisations

Universities

Research centres

Academic associations

NGOs
Reaching out: examples

- Siemens
- AESOP
- Nolaris
- UNESCO
- Government of Belize
Endorsements 2009-2010

- World Bank Urban Research Symposium
- United Nations ECOSOC Sustainable Urbanisation Conference
- Real Corp Cities 3.0
- Damascus Regional Centre for Sustainable Local Development
- Global City Abu Dhabi (2009-10)
- Terrapin (2010)
- ICLEI (2010)
An emerging partnership: UN-Habitat

- WUF 4 Nanjing – organised a Networking Event
- Habitat Professionals Forum – reviving the 1996 spirit
- Porto

- WUF 5 Rio
- Nairobi 2010
IFHP – INTA – ISOCARP MoA

With unanimous support from EXCO, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed on Berlin on 5 September by the presidents of

- IFHP
- INTA
- ISOCARP
Who are the partners?

- International Federation for Housing and Planning, The Hague
- International Urban Development Association, The Hague

IFHP-INTA-ISOCARP combined membership is 3,500
1957

- Permanent Committee of Professional Planners created within IFHP
- The Committee focused on aspects of practice including
  - processes
  - ethics
  - education
- A very active group who met more frequently than once a year
- The group’s increasing activity called for further autonomy...
1965

- ... that group was the origin of ISOCARP
- Sam Van Embden (Delft) elected first president
- Aim to define the identity of the planning professional
- Within a comprehensive understanding of the profession

- At the time, cities were perceived to be the result of either
  Architects as “artists”
  Planners as “technicians”
50 years later

- Planners, architects, environmentalists, developers, and others actors recognise:
  - The complexity of the city is beyond a single discipline
  - The need to find common ground

This is why IFHP, INTA, ISOCARP intend to collaborate
What is it the agreement about?

Collaboration between international planning organisations

- Capitalise on synergies whilst retaining full independence
- Substantive collaboration
- Pilot 3-year programme
The process

• VROM and The Hague convened the parties
• Initially formulated as a facilities-driven initiative focusing on co-location
• Core Group: SGs who met several times Dec 08-Sept 09
• Letter of intent signed on Feb 09, announced to members via email on March 09, and uploaded to ISOCARP webpage including a special President’s Message
• MoA signed on Sept 09 subject to ratification of this General Assembly
What we can start doing

- Non capital intensive initiatives:
  - Synchronise our calendars
  - Disseminate information across our memberships
  - Provide slots for each other at our respective congresses
Ideas for the long term

• Substantive collaboration leading to the establishment of a “International Knowledge Centre for the Sustainable Future of Cities”
  — Comparative studies
  — Capacity development
  — Dissemination

• Other partners will be welcome to join
Thank you

p.vaggione@isocarp.org