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**ISOCARP 2009 BUREAU MEETING**  
**Porto, Portugal**

**Sunday, 18 October 2009**  
**10.00-12.30 and 15.00-17.00**

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## MINUTES ISOCARP BUREAU MEETING

### 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

ISOCARP President *Pierre Laconte* opens the meeting and welcomes everybody present.

#### 1.1 Minutes of the Bureau Meeting, 18 September 2008 – Dalian, China

approved and adopted.

### 2. INTERNAL BUSINESS

#### 2.1. Results National Delegation Elections 2009

Several National Delegations did not react to the ISOCARP call for elections which takes place every three years. Three years ago it was decided that the National Delegations could decide on their own how they would like to hold their elections.

*Pierre Laconte* asks the question how to strengthen the National Delegations. *Judith Ryser* remarks that only four of the five ND places could be filled in the UK. Is the present structure really the right one? She proposes to do a survey to find out why the structure does not work satisfactorily. The structure is from the 1960's, in the meantime ISOCARP has members in many more countries, through the internet it is much easier to quickly communicate.

According to *Pierre Laconte* the non-engagement of the NDs is not because of the structure. ISOCARP has to find a way to make members enthusiastic, once you are in a ND you are committed, no matter what the structure is. The NDs should be the embassies of ISOCARP in the respective countries.

*Jeremy Dawkins* stresses that there should be conversation across the entire membership, everybody should speak to somebody else.

*Simon Moussalli* remarks that although in Lebanon there are many universities, ISOCARP is non-existent. What can ISOCARP bring to Lebanon? He would be willing to organise a similar seminar like the one held in Syria this year in Lebanon.

*Jim Colman* states that in Australia there are very strong national institutes. The added value of ISOCARP has to be made very clear. *Rachid Ouazzani* remarks that it is quite difficult in Morocco to implement an ISOCARP delegation for two reasons, first also because of the strong national association and secondly because of the fact that Morocco is a French speaking country.

*Manfred Schrenk* is of the opinion that it makes sense to have NDs: to communicate to the EXCO and to spread information on ISOCARP in the respective countries. However, we should not be overbureaucratic. Everybody is welcome to contribute to bring the profession further. We should avoid NDs that block new ideas.

*Pierre Laconte* remarks that a very good initiative is to bring the NDs and the national associations together (as was done e.g. in Oregon).

*Ulla Hoyer* remarks that as a Bureau Member she has never been contacted by the EXCO.

*Pablo Vaggione* states the message is clear and that ISOCARP needs to engage a dialogue, he will comment on this in the coming months.

All ISOCARP members and especially National Delegations are kindly asked to further engage by sending their feedback and ideas directly to ISOCARP. ND members are also asked to do their best in attracting new members and taking necessary steps to host UPAT(s) within their respective countries.

## 2.2 Treasurer: Financial Report

For approval by the Bureau and to be submitted to the General Assembly in order to be discharged from liability

The ISOCARP Annual Accounts are – according to Dutch Law – obligatorily edited/audited by an officially registered Dutch Accountant

(Financial report available on ISOCARP Members' Platform – Bureau Meeting).

The year 2008 ended with a surplus of 1,285 Euro. On 1 January 2009 ISOCARP had a capital of 157,747 Euro. This means that ISOCARP could operate one year without receiving any new income. Membership fees account for 28%.

*Manfred Schrenk* stresses that ISOCARP has to work on the fact that there is a dependence on variable income to balance financial matters. Expenditures are more stable than income. Subsidies (above all UPATs) are the biggest income post. The amount spent on Awards (18,320) is exceptionally high this year. It was a strategic decision and should be seen as an investment for the future.

2009 was not a fantastic year for ISOCARP, however, finances are balanced. In 2009 ISOCARP only had two UPATs. Other activities e.g. Plan4all were deployed.

### Overview on Revenues and Expenditure:

#### Revenues:

Membership fees	56.708,26
Subsidies	83.198,47
Interest	2.125,39
Net income congresses and seminars	60.979,07
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>203.011,19</b>

#### Expenditures:

Labour Expenditure	115.198,36	
Office Rent	9.277,38	
Sitges Office	8.995,85	
Administration	22.264,13	
Executive Committee	6.600,58	
Corporate Image	589,05	
Depreciation	4.867,83	
WUF Nanjing	4.064,84	
Awards	18.320,66	
Other income and expenses	11.547,10	
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>201.725,78</b>	<b>Result 1.285,41</b>

*Ismael Fernandez Mejia* stresses that ISOCARP has to live on its own, stable resources. Depending on subsidies constitutes a risky situation.

The financial success of a congress or the number of UPATs per year are not guaranteed entries, and a bad year could mean a very delicate situation for ISOCARP's finances.

A feasible way to increase fixed income is to increase the number of members. It is estimated that an approximated number of 1,000 members are necessary.

It would be ideal if each country could organise a UPAT. The magic number would be five UPATs a year.

*Pablo Vaggione* adds that if ISOCARP had a fixed income and expenditures balance, variable income could be used for additional activities.

*Awadel Karim Mohamed Ahmed* states that the NDs have to widen the membership in the respective countries. A Sudanese Planning Organisation will be created.

*Fernanda Magalhaes* remarks that 1,000 members means that each member just has to find one additional member. Furthermore ISOCARP needs to find a link to local governments. ISOCARP will participate in the World Forum in Brasil.

The Bureau approves the financial report which will be submitted to the General Assembly.

### **2.3 Secretary General: Annual Report September 2008 – October 2009**

*Powerpoint Presentation (as PDF) available on ISOCARP Members' Platform – Bureau Meeting*

#### **Realigning the Strategic Focus: Knowledge for Cities**

*Pablo Vaggione's* presentation indicates that the present time is a key moment for the planning profession because of a series of key challenges:

- The urban area will double by 2030
- The environment is really under pressure
- Poverty is an urban issue
- There are financial constraints for development after the Fall 08 crash
- Urban development is faster than planning procedures.

These challenges present in turn a series of opportunity to us:

- Planning is more needed than ever
- Planning can be the central discipline as we face the challenges of urbanisation
- Planning must be holistic, transversal, and dynamic
- A time for focused thought and action

The strategic focus of ISOCARP can be encapsulated by the motto “Knowledge for Cities”. This signals a shift of focus from the profession in itself to the outcome of the planning profession. “Knowledge” represents our Values, Skills, Network, Experience and Commitment; and “Cities” brings the territorial component of Villages Towns, Metropolitan areas, Regions, Rural settlements. The word “for” signals the applied, action-oriented nature of ISOCARP’s knowledge.

Through this strategic focus, ISOCARP will be better positioned to face urban development challenges, taking a proactive, hands-on approach, and drawing on our members’ significant field experience. In addition, ISOCARP is taking significant steps to become a truly global society, with credibility and commitment retained as key values.

#### **Membership Development**

The field of activity of ISOCARP’s membership shows a balance between academics, practicing planners and those in government. This triple perspective, the capability that ISOCARP has of looking at issues from theory, policy and practice angles is a unique value proposition that we must nurture and capitalize on.

ISOCARP has over 600 members. Membership from Europe amounts to 54%, slightly down from 56% last year. Whereas in 2008 ISOCARP attracted most new members from Africa, in 2009 38% of the new membership originates from Asia, mostly China. The Middle East accounts for 31%, Europe for 24%.

Congress participation (in terms of number of registrations) has doubled in 8 years. There is an increasing presence from developing countries, despite the difficulties found in meeting travel costs and obtaining visas.

In this respect, we must note that unfortunately a significant Nigerian delegation including members and other colleagues could not attend the congress because they could not obtain a visa from the government of the host country.

## **Reaching out: Partnerships**

Why do we need partnerships?

- Realigning the focus to 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
- Partnerships provide more value to our members.

ISOCARP will continue to dedicate efforts to develop partnerships following the framework of the triple perspective. This means seeking to explore synergies with academic centres, multilateral organisations, NGOs and the private sector.

**Partnership development.** In terms of multilateral organisations, we have renewed our consultancy status with UNESCO. On the academic side, we have strengthened our relation with AESOP (Association of European Schools of Planning) through a Memorandum of Understanding. We have initiated a dialogue with the private sector and the industry signalled by the support received from Siemens and Nolaris to our congress.

**Endorsements.** As an initial step in developing potential partnerships, ISOCARP has exchanged endorsement of selected activities with the following organisations:

- 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)
- Terrapinn (2010)
- ICLEI (2010)

**UN Habitat.** Over the past 2 years, ISOCARP has undertaken significant efforts towards developing a relationship with UN-Habitat. We are delighted to note that this partnership is consolidating. These efforts include: i) Participation of ISOCARP at the World Urban Forum (WUF): At the World Urban Forum WUF4 in Nanjing, ISOCARP was, for the first time, chosen by UN-Habitat to organise a Networking Event. This was especially significant because ISOCARP was the only planning organisation to do so. ISOCARP has submitted a Networking Event proposal for WUF 5 in Rio and is looking to be engaged in a number of other activities. ii) Active involvement in the Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF). ISOCARP is regaining a central role within HPF. This is with the fact that ISOCARP was one of its initiators in 1996. Later, Federico Malusardi kept the flame alive, but the involvement had faded a bit in the last few years. iii) Participation of UN Habitat at ISOCARP Congress. UN Habitat is present at the Porto Congress through keynote speeches, technical seminars and side events. UN Habitat will host the opening of the Congress 2010 at the UN Campus in Nairobi.

**Collaboration initiative with INTA and IFHP.** ISOCARP, INTA (International Urban Development Association) and IFHP (International Federation for Housing and Planning), three international organisations in the realm of planning based in The Hague, and Nicis International, the international arm of the Nicis Institute, met over several months to discuss a framework for a potential collaboration. The process, which began in December 2008, was initially encouraged by the Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning, and the Environment (VROM), and the city of The Hague. Discussions were initiated under the common understanding that a merger between the parties was not the desired outcome. Common interest was found in building synergies whilst retaining each organisation's full independence. VROM and The Hague stated that they were in a position to make available € 1 million for the four parties over three years as an incentive, providing that they obtained the required political support from relevant government bodies.

A working group comprising the Secretary-Generals of ISOCARP, IFHP and INTA, the ISOCARP Executive Director, the INTA Director for Development and representatives from Nicis International met several times between December 08 and February 09 to discuss the general scope and possible terms of the potential collaboration initiative. Representatives from VROM and The Hague attended key meetings. Although at first the objective of the collaboration initiative seemed to centre on co-location (all parties relocating in shared premises), the parties were inclined for a substantive rather than a facilities-driven collaboration. This content-based approach was reflected in the long-term opportunity to create a cluster of knowledge in the field of sustainable urban planning. Towards that aim, the parties would develop a series of initiatives in an initial three-year period. Discussions held between December and February resulted in a letter of intent (LoI) signed by the Presidents of ISOCARP, INTA and IFHP, and the General Manager of Nicis Institute, confirming the willingness of the parties to collaborate and their intention to undertake a collaboration viability study. The LoI was signed in February 09; this was announced to ISOCARP members via email on March 09, and uploaded to ISOCARP webpage as a special President's Message.

Between February and August, the parties conducted a viability study, which included discussing the focus of the substantive collaboration and comparative studies to understand the implications of the co-location options. Both VROM and The Hague favoured a co-location in Nicis' premises. The viability study however showed that doing so would mean significantly increased costs per full time employee for ISOCARP, INTA and IFHP, which would stress their financials beyond advisable. In a meeting held in August, the parties were told that, contrary to what was understood until then, decisions on the substantive component of the collaboration initiative were to be made by a Programme Manager designated by VROM and The Hague and thus beyond the parties' competence. These conditions would mean for ISOCARP, INTA and IFHP putting their future as independent organisations at risk. VROM and The Hague communicated would only support the collaboration initiative under such terms. Nicis International announced that they were not prepared to consider any location option other than their own premises.

Acknowledging that planners, architects, environmentalists, developers, and others actors recognise that the complexity of the city is beyond a single discipline and organisation; that collaboration would bring value to members; that the critical mass (the combined membership of is 3,500) would facilitate future activities; and that the long-term objective of creating a knowledge cluster remains a shared aim, the three organisations decided to carry on with the collaboration initiative. Suggested initial activities include shaping a common calendar of shared and joint activities, synchronizing calendars, disseminating information across our memberships and providing slots for each other at our congresses. As an example, *Pierre Laconte* was a keynote speaker at the INTA Congress in Taiwan. Hence, and with unanimous support from EXCO, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed in Berlin on 5 September by the presidents of ISOCARP, INTA and IFHP. This MoA is subject to ratification by ISOCARP's General Assembly and in that spirit is presented to the BM.

#### **Discussion:**

*Judith Ryser* is happy to see evolution. She asks about the added value of this for ISOCARP Members.

*Jeremy Dawkins* asks how to bring it all down to the knowledge base.

*Gunduz Eronat* remarks that the ISOCARP members were not consulted for this decision, he would have appreciated a discussion before the signing.

*Karl van Plettenberg* considers it to be a pity that the landscape design is not involved.

The agreement needs to be ratified at the General Assembly. Several Bureau Members are of the opinion that all the members should be asked and not only those who happen to be here now.

*Khalid El Adli* suggests that the Bureau may agree on the initiative, but that in the future all Bureau members should personally be asked when such initiatives are intended to be taken.

*Jim Colman* proposes a referendum within the membership at large. Consensus does not mean a vote.

*Judy van Hemert* remarks that the initiative is only to serve the membership.

**Vote:**

Members present agree to vote on the question: ***Do you support the collaboration initiative?***

**Result:** Majority: positive; 2 abstention; 1 negative.

The list of persons present shows 41 persons in attendance.

**3. REPORTS ON ACTIVITY PROGRAMMES**

**3.1 Awards and Communication – Vice President Dirk Engelke**

**Communication part:** *Dirk Engelke* shows the newest ISOCARP flyer which was distributed during the congress.

**Awards part:** The best way to market the ISOCARP Awards for Excellence is via personal contact. INTA and IFHP will distribute our brochures as well. Two journalists (one from TOPOS) will be in Gdansk during the 2009 Award Ceremony.

*Judith Ryser* has a few questions concerning the awards: Who are they for? Only for members? How many? What is excellence? According to her, the winning project has to be really special and just one (not six as last year).

Several members think that all not only the Gerd Albers Award, but also the Awards for Excellence should be for members only. For *Dirk Engelke* the Awards enable ISOCARP to learn from others, we should not close this window.

*Khalid El Adli* remarks that ISOCARP cannot compete with other organisations that have awards.

*Jeremy Dawkins* is of the opinion that Awards for Excellence should be for members and non-members, knowledge for better cities does not make sense for members only.

The question is how to measure excellence? At least one person from outside ISOCARP should be a Jury member.

**3.2 UPATs – Vice President Paco Arellano**

*Paco Arellano* reports that the UPATs are not only economically important but also very important for the visibility of ISOCARP. He urges all members present to promote a UPAT in their respective countries and look for an opportunity to help a local institution to take better decisions. ISOCARP wants to bring some benefit to others.

It is a pity that many of the UPATs announced last year could not be realized, mostly because of the financial crisis or political changes. We might have to find new ways to promote a UPAT.

**3.3 Technical Assistance – Vice President Jim Colman**

*Jim Colman* reports that he has not much to report. He feels geographically too remote from the area where it things take place. It is almost a full time job to chase projects with internet agencies. We need to be very cautious on that territory.

*Manfred Schrenk* remarks that Plan4all is a prototype of such potential projects in Technical Assistance.

*Ismael Fernandez* stresses that we have to move into governmental or donor-based projects. We should participate as knowledge partners. We are not competing with consultancies.

**3.4 Publications – Vice President Chris Gossop**

*Chris Gossop* reports that 2009 has been a productive year concerning publications:

IMPP (end of 2008); ISOCARP Reviews 04 and 05; Dalian Congress CD Rom; YPP report 2007 Antwerp.

A question on why the congress CD Rom (congress papers and introductory reports) did not have an ISBN number this year is raised.

An on-line publication strategy needs to be discussed and specified. Articles may be sold on demand.

However, there is the issue of copyright of the authors (who may not want to make them available for sale). A policy needs to be devised about what is available free and what is for sale, as ISOCARP has an NGO status.

### **3.5. Young Planning Professionals – Vice President Zeynep Enlil**

Zeynep Enlil reports that the current Young Planning Professionals' Programme includes 5 local and 19 international planners. They work on the Douro region. The LOC has invested a lot of energy and time hosting this event and sharing their experience.

The financial support for this programme granted by the Netherlands Ministry for Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM) is coming to an end this year and alternative solutions are being sought. It should be really a priority to maintain the YPP programme alongside the ISOCARP congresses in cooperation with the LOC. For the 2010 Nairobi congress, there is strong support from the LOC and funding for YPPs from developing countries is hopefully forthcoming, similar to the previous UNESCO Most support. The EXCO has devised a new policy for the YPP programme with the intention to broaden it out and disseminate it more widely and make it accessible to a wider membership which could attract more members to ISOCARP at the same time. Different models are being worked out based on institutions, regions or themes.

One solution is to stage an interim workshop between congresses. This could take the form of traditional YPP workshops lasting 3-4 days with international planners and senior members to assist them. For example a YPP Workshop is planned in Damascus alongside an ISOCARP seminar on 'Managing Urban Regions' initiated by ISOCARP member *Peter Ross*. In Poland a YPP workshop is planned alongside the seminar in Gdansk which is organised to coincide with the presentation of the ISOCARP Awards 2009, in cooperation with the university of Gdansk.

*Jim Colman* had organised an YPP Workshop in Queensland, Australia, with local planners. Another formula was adopted in China where a series of lectures were organised involving YPPs.

Another initiative involves cooperation with AESOP, which has set up networks among young planning academics. Cooperation between these networks and the ISOCARP YPPs' events was established to create synergy between academic pursuits and the approach of practitioners and their hands on experience from which academics could benefit. Observers who were interested in organising similar workshops in their countries were present.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ISOCARP and AESOP to organise a cooperation of Heads of the Departments of Planning of member planning schools of AESOP to discuss policies of planning education in Istanbul in April 2010. The ISOCARP EXCO will take place at the same time as the AESOP EXCO on the occasion of a joint seminar focusing on planning education and practice. This continuous dialogue between AESOP and ISOCARP provides many opportunities for the Young Planning Professionals' Programme.

A possibility would be to extend the UPAT model to involve more YPPs, but there is an issue about meeting the travel costs. For events with purely educational purpose sources of funding are available which may not be accessible for a formula providing professional expertise. Therefore it would be necessary to seek other sources of funding to enable international YPPs to participate in UPATs. One model is to make these events self-financing, but this may be a handicap to increasing the numbers of YPP workshops.

The answer is to adopt a flexible approach to cooperating with other organisations. It could be combined with capacity building, which can resort to other sources of funding. For example, the Damascus initiative benefits from EU funding aimed at capacity building from which a part can be allocated to the YPP Programme. In Australia the YPP Workshop obtained support from the Ministry of Education; the City and planning organisations provided assistance. In Gdansk, a part of the 5-year EU grant allocated to capacity building is diverted to YPP workshops. Matching grant applications are also possible, for example to enhance the education of a PhD student. In general, cooperation between universities and ISOCARP is sought to support YPP Workshops as they provide mutual benefits. Other institutions could be co-opted as well at later stage.

*Awadel Karim Mohamed Ahmed* from Sudan welcomes the YPP programme and would like to be able to run one in his country. Another member considers it to be necessary that universities attribute formal accreditation



to the cooperation between universities and ISOCARP and incorporate the YPP programme in the official educational curriculum.

#### **4. Other Business**

*Khalid El Adli* makes a general remark concerning the rigid seating arrangement (them and us) which was not conducive for a proper dialogue and egalitarian exchange between the ISOCARP Bureau Members and the EXCO. He proposed that the EXCO should provide quarterly reports to the national delegations and make them available on the website to the ISOCARP membership at large about its key initiatives and impending decisions before entering agreements with third parties. This would establish much needed clarity and transparency. He also thought that six monthly meetings of the Bureau could contribute to a more transparent and interactive decision-making process.

#### **5. Closing of the Meeting**

Due to the late hour and the reduced constituency, it is proposed to take up the substantive discussion on the future of ISOCARP, its structure including the issue of regional offices, its procedures, its objectives and democratisation of communication at the General Assembly. It is considered that the membership, which is the key asset and purpose of ISOCARP could be more informed and involved in a direct manner on initiatives undertaken by EXCO, further than uploading information on the ISOCARP website.

The meeting is closed at 17.00.



## **ANNEX**

### **Comments to the Minutes of the Bureau Meeting of the Porto Congress 2009**

The following BM and ND members sent their comments on the Minutes of the Bureau Meeting held in Porto/Portugal, on 18 October 2009. A few members replied on behalf of the complete ND, most of them gave their personal opinion. Their views are compiled in alphabetical order.

Bernard Aubert, France

Awadel Karim M. Ahmed, Sudan

Margaret Baumann, Switzerland – on behalf of Swiss ND

Dushko Bogunovich, New Zealand

Brett Clavio, USA

Martin Dubbeling, Netherlands – on behalf of Dutch ND

Hesham El-Barmelgy, Egypt

Ammar Gargoum, Libya

Meir Garon, Israel

Lorraine Gonzalez, USA

Janine Marin, France

Mostafa Meziane, Morocco

Mthembeni Mkhize, South Africa

Simon Moussalli, Lebanon

Shi Nan, China

Mairura Omwenga, Kenya

Peter Robinson, South Africa

Judith Ryser, United Kingdom

Claudio Sainz, Mexico

Aleksandra Stupar, Serbia

Francisco J. de la Vega Aragón, México

José María Yagüe Mata, Spain

## **Bernard Aubert, France**

My comments about the Minutes of the Bureau Meeting - PORTO October 2009

### **Members of the delegation**

The delegation grew rich new members (2 for the year the 2009 - a file in progress) - goal is to widen its contacts and to diversify the experiments.

### **Interest to belong to ISOCARP**

The new members seek especially the possibility of exchanges of knowledge and practices - that touches for example the training of the town planners which raises in France much problems (answer to the requirements of a trade which is renewed).

That requires a more active communication with information exchanges between delegations - a comprising bulletin of the cards of experiments proves to be useful to compare the practices.

### **Recognition of ISOCARP**

It is necessary to develop the contacts with other associations of town planners at the national level; for France, it is for example the Société Française des Urbanistes; it is also necessary to approach the universities - meetings must be committed by explaining what ISOCARP represents.

Is the legibility of the profession already difficult in France - why not to put this question on the international level? The World Days of Town Planning held recently in Lyon made it possible to better identify the profile of a trade which is renewed.

B. AUBERT member of the board of directors of the SFU unceasingly refers to the standpoint of AIU France.

### **Cash management**

B. Aubert as President of AIU France received the assessment of the contributions, emphasizing many delays of payment - in spite of the revivals, it is necessary to note a true relaxation. One would need more rigor, by excluding those which refuse to pay, even like institutional members.

### **New knowledge in aid the City**

The report carried out in PORTO is quite as valid for France:

70000 ha consumed each year for the benefit of the urban growth - it is necessary to insist on the degradation of the sites, the creation of spaces of "not - city" on the periphery of the cities, impossible to manage; this absence of control has several causes:

- absence of long term vision, for the benefit of disordered projects, without relationship to the structure of the city, the urban forms being unaware of the lifestyles and the lengthening of displacements
- absence of control of the land one - a regulation which paralyzes the step and puts in danger the project - the needs are not solved (dramatic situation of housing).

It is necessary to blame the role of the elected officials, but also that of the town planner who must face new situations, requiring a greater control and especially much more knowledge. It is the problem of the "transversality": the town planner reveals a situation, organizes the participation of other intervening parties, and implements the project. That requires the direction of the contact, the pedagogy and especially much of humility: one is very far from the architect who "conquers" space!

It would be necessary to know the opinion of the other countries: it is the occasion for ISOCARP to cause such exchanges on the handing-over in question of a trade, of know-how.

### **The development of collaborations**

France maintains permanently the relationships with UNESCO and the Council of Europe - works were carried out during the year in collaboration with the FIHUAT.

Contacts are made with the Universities ensuring of the trainings of town planners, by raising the questions about the future of a trade.

### **Future of the Young Town planners**

An association gathers in France students and young town planners (Urba Plus) - the delegation will admit the two national leaders.

### **Awadel Karim M. Ahmed, Sudan**

1. I read the minutes and I am very much satisfied that it well covers all topics.
2. We are in the process of establishing the Sudanese Planners Association and I shall keep you informed.
3. The subject of Young Professional Planners (YPP) is under consideration.
4. We have a problem of attracting new members because of the problem of transfer of membership fees due to blockade.

Judy promised to raise this matter in your executive meeting following the congress. However I suggest to transfer membership fees to ISOCARP through the Kenyan ISOCARP Congress Committee. Please advise.

### **Margaret Baumann, Switzerland – on behalf of Swiss National Delegation**

In response to your call for feedback the Swiss National Delegation has the following input: We would like to see a focus on two topics which will be important in the future for Switzerland as well as for a global planning world.

1. Sustainable development (despite rather discouraging results from Copenhagen).

The principle of sustainability combines the ethic of spatial planning with the responsibility towards future generation. The question if the future should have the future is central for spatial planning. Emphasis placed on ethical, democratic reasoning is very typical for Switzerland: contributing towards a better focus on human rights and finding the answer in generally accepted rules and regulations.

Sustainable development is not just about the environment, but also about the society and the economy. These three areas are directly linked. Sustainable development in Switzerland is most efficiently treated at the local and regional level. This brings us to the question which preoccupies the Swiss National Delegation: What contribution can local land use planning bring to ensure a global (planning over the borders, planning in functional areas) sustainable development?

2. Spatial planning in democracy (decision making, structure, ethic, public participation). Democracy and ethics are central and elementary for spatial planning. The crucial question for planners is the question of legitimizing our actions and consequences that we produce. These actions and decisions have to be deeply rooted and justified through the democratic process. Switzerland's spatial planning practice is set in its direct democratic political system where local authorities have a high degree of autonomy in their decision making process. The quality of spatial planning is directly related to individual concerns of people, closeness to the decision makers and the possibility for individual discussions. These qualities build the base of the Swiss political system and could contribute to the exchange of ideas and practices for other countries.

The Swiss ND would like to focus on the above mentioned topics and possibly exploit the new opportunity of collaboration with the partner organizations IFHP and INTA in this respect.

As a result of joint collaboration we see the possibility to organize an expert meeting at the University of Applied Science in Rapperswil CH at some point.

### **Dushko Bogunovich, New Zealand**

May I offer a comment and an amendment on point 2.3 in the Minutes? (This is the one about your PP presentation and your suggestion to realign the strategic focus of the Society, as cut-and-pasted below...)

I absolutely agree with your assessment that this is a 'key moment' for our profession. The challenges are multiple, severe and global - just as you summarised them.

Sadly, right in this moment we have the events in Haiti, where the Port-au-Prince situation as of two days ago shows drastically what is awaiting many of the urban areas in the future. This what the urban places will succumb to if we continue to ignore the risk of an over-populated and over-concentrated world, a world in which the key natural systems are overstressed or destabilised, regardless whether due to natural or man-made causes, or both.

Haiti is indeed a horrific preview of the future - unless urban planning is given:

- 1) a bigger role;
- 2) a sharper focus.

It is about the 'sharper focus' that I want to say something, after you have so eloquently stressed the 'bigger role'.

What I would like to add to our strategic realignment is that not only is planning 'more needed than ever', and that it should be 'the central discipline', and that needs to be 'holistic, transversal, and dynamic' - but also that it needs one overarching, super-strategic goal as we enter the 2nd decade of the 21st century. This 'super-goal' could be defined as:

To reduce - both in volume and rate - and restructure - in terms of closing source-sink loops - the runaway global urban metabolism, so that the threat of global environmental breakdown, and reversely - the threat of a global urban breakdown due to overstressed ecosystems (land, water, climate) and inadequate infrastructure - are brought down by 2020 to a safe level.

(What is a 'safe level', I do not know myself, but apparently there are people who do know - science in this area has made huge progress in the last decade or two (though few people in decision making positions seem to know this or care....)

This drastic reduction and radical restructuring of the global urban metabolism must be achieved globally in the next ten years. Otherwise it will be too late.

Therefore I suggest that ISOCARP treats this as a global emergency - a global emergency, in which cities are at the centre of attention and and at the centre of action. Cities are the main problem; therefore they've got to be the main solution too.

This 10-year project of global scale is something ISOCARP should take as its main objective between 2010 and 2020. I am not sure how we could action this exactly, but I do have some tentative ideas....

For example, ISOCARP should go beyond alliances with similar associations, such as with IFHP and INTA. It should also engage big international players in other areas.

Such as:

- UNDP (whose boss is now NZ's ex Prime Minister, Helen Clark)

- Bill Clinton's C 40 Climate Leadership Group

<http://www.c40cities.org/>

The World Bank's Eco2 Programme:

<http://wwwr.worldbank.org/eco2>

IBM's The SmarterCities programme:

[http://www-03.ibm.com/innovation/us/thesmartercity/index.shtml?cm\\_mmc=agus\\_brsmartcity-20090929-usbrb111-\\_-s-\\_-genhpmerch-\\_-sp&re=sp6](http://www-03.ibm.com/innovation/us/thesmartercity/index.shtml?cm_mmc=agus_brsmartcity-20090929-usbrb111-_-s-_-genhpmerch-_-sp&re=sp6)

....and so on.

I also think ISOCARP should form an advisory group on this matter, made of people with not just high level expertise and global reputation (and regardless whether members of the Society or not), but who tend to see the problem in these terms - the Urban Metabolism paradigm etc.... For example, people like Herbert Girardet, Peter Newman, Peter Droege and so on.

I would be happy to discuss this further if you see any potential in this.

### **Brett Clavio, USA**

Thanks for the opportunity to offer questions and comments. The meeting minutes are impressive and informative of the thought provoking dialogues from Porto. It is interesting to hear of the development of ISOCARP activities. Of particular interest is the collaboration initiative with INTA and IFHP. Having initiated the partnership with the prior, I feel somewhat accountable for its success, or at least want to share my vision. Five years ago, the MOU for a partnership was based off of a premise to start small and see if there could be any benefit from a potential synergy of working together with a similar mission in a similar place- The Hague, the Netherlands. This cluster of planning intelligence could also be developed as strategic for its host. It could benefit not only the City but also the State. The basic notions of the partnership at the time were:

1. Have an open attitude to explore possibilities for collaboration. Specific agreements of collaboration can be drawn up when appropriate opportunities arise.
2. Maintain open channels of communication between the Executive Committees of both organizations.
3. Inform the counterpart organization of the events and activities being undertaken by the organization.
4. Establish a link on the web sites of the respective organizations.

5. Waive the annual fees for Institutional Membership.

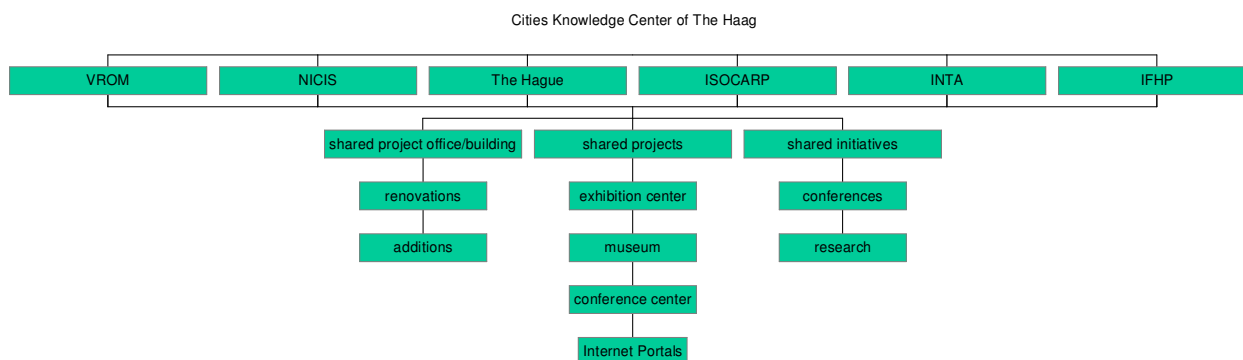
Where appropriate, to invite the counterpart organization to be officially represented at the Main Events of the organization.

Within five years, it is impressive to see that many developments have been made with both NGO-NGO partnerships and NGO-GO partnerships.

More recently though, and unfortunately, the NGO-GO collaboration negotiations [with the city of the Hague and the Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning, and the Environment (VROM)] didn't seem to succeed.

Although not having read the viability study, the concept of physically co-locating the NGO (or NGO-GO) partnership under the roof of Nicis International could be reasonable if the facility could be offered as an in-kind contribution. Raising the operational costs of the NGOs would be impractical unless this increase could be offset by a public subsidy. It seemed the initiative had the potential financial backing of the City and/or State (VROM).

Could the arrangement be reconsidered? What about the coordinated form- what is the ideal architecture for such a partnership? A partnership should not necessitate a merger or acquisition. Could the physical form also be reconsidered? Instead of a unified GO-NGO program office ruled by a sovereign, perhaps a multi-polar project office, run by a board. The project office could be a collaborative, international project place, even with the leadership of a National program. If it could be the projects that tie the binds of the partnership, rather than the missions, the NGOs could remain autonomous. The placement of NGO HQ offices could remain flexible to locate or relocate anywhere.



Additionally, the powers, burdens, and risks of the substantive partnership should be balanced and transparent. The substantive terms of an NGO-GO partnership should allow for each organization to keep its core mission and values intact. An organization cannot be both a GO and an NGO. ISOCARP should keep its NGO status, and promote its service and affinity to all regions.

Values added to the partnership by the NGO include the qualities of its autonomy and its distinction as international.

Values added to the partnership by the GO include the ability to benefit and leverage the locality, along with public financial support. The GO can sponsor and benefit from projects.

Could a GO-NGO partnership program manager could facilitate/ lead projects, while still being accountable to the partnership in its entirety.

The composite nature of a partnership could generate interesting, integrated projects, such as a 'Cities Knowledge Center' or 'City Planning Center' project, comprised of the partners. Such projects could benefit all organizations involved, and the public interest in general. The challenge with project partnerships is often overcoming the semantics and the personalities.

## **Martin Dubbeling, Netherlands – on behalf of Dutch ND**

With apologies for my belated response, I had some compelling deadlines. For the ExCo, this coming weekend, I would like to address a few points for your discussion.

First of all I would like you to look back at the Porto Congress. It was a good organised congress by the LOC and the hard working ladies of our Secretariat. However, some parts of the General Assembly made me think of the very best episodes of the renowned Monty Python's Flying Circus. I do think that you understand to which parts I am referring to (addressing distinguished guests from Kenya as Nigerians, the Change of Presidency). Please, do your very best to avoid those scenes in the future at all costs.

Enclosed you find an article in 'Scape Magazine about last year's ISOCARP and IFHP world congresses written by our young planner Michaël Meijer who visited both congresses. Michaël has noticed that both congresses had their charms and qualities. I will send you a hard copy of 'Scape Magazine in the next week.

The five members of the Dutch Delegation of ISOCARP have met last December. We have discussed the opportunities of a strong cooperation between secretariats of ISOCARP, IFHP and INTA. We recognise the need for and welcome a combined organisation that is fit for the challenges of the 21st century, with more services for members on internet, maybe a magazine, etc. If co-location could lead to the best of combined worlds which a wide variety of activities and services such as working parties, summer schools, great congresses, UPAT's, a place of learning for young professionals and a worldwide community of colleagues and friends, we strongly advise you to undertake all necessary actions without delay. If we, as the Dutch Delegation, could be of any assistance, we would like to hear from you what we can do for the ExCo and the Secretariat.

Recently, Derek Martin, SG of IFHP, invited me for a exchange of views and ideas about co-location or even more. I suggested him that co-location could lead to a critical mass and to an interesting concept in which the different "brands" of ISOCARP, IFHP and INTA could be offered in one shop or showroom. Like the Volkswagen Group offers VW Golfs for no nonsense cars, Seat for Spanish temperament, Audi for elegant driving and Skoda for economy. Together we have discussed the possibility of organising joint meetings for Dutch ISOCARP and IFHP members.

## **Hesham El-Barmelgy**

I have recently reviewed the Minutes of the Bureau Meeting and I have some suggestions that might be interesting:

First, regarding the structure of the ISoCaRP, it doesn't really matter that the structure is since the 1960. What really a matter is the issue of the multi-nationalities of the members and that something must be done to make contact between ISoCaRP members more easily and efficiently some ideas may be valuable such as:

An online meeting area within the ISoCaRP site or may be any other sort of online communication facility through the internet can be considered of vital importance.

Members may be encourage to conduct researchers together especially academic members which will strengthen the collaboration between the members in the same fields of interest.

Secondly, concerning the need to introduce new memberships to reach the financial stability required for the organisation. I can see that this is an easy matter especially in the academic area. However, some incentives and work from the side of ISoCaRP has to be done. For example, I can convince two or three staff members to join however this number can be multiplied if:

- the ISoCaRP can strengthen the bond between the members regarding international research opportunities in various fields
- having a partnership with international publishers (such as SAGE or whatever.... ) where ISoCaRP members are offered advantages to publish in reputable international journals (note: the new Egyptian Regulation for academic staff has approved the matter of international research publishing as a must)
- Finally, the publication issues of the ISoCaRP conferences has to be strengthened through collaboration with international planning journals ..... such an issue would form an incentive to attract new memberships especially from Egypt as mentioned above.



### **Ammar Gargoum, Libya**

Concerning minutes of BM no comments.

For idea of developing activities of our society I propose more connections to authorities of urban planning in different countries all over the world such as our UPA in Libya.

### **Meir Garon, Israel**

I fully agree with the initiative in your message and periodic messages (eg. quarterly e mail of updates or questions addressed to the Board Members) would strengthen the ties with the board members not only once a year at the congress. This would also be a further link with the National Delegation.

### **Lorraine Gonzalez, USA**

In review of the draft minutes we would like to respond that we are in agreement with the following items:

1. Each country should try to host one UPAT in collaboration with local, regional and/or national government support.
2. The ISOCARP-INTA-IFHP collaboration is beneficial, and ultimately necessary for the vitality of our profession
3. We should work toward the development of strong relationships with international NGOs and other organizations that share the same or complementary interests
4. For recruitment purposes we should be clear of the added value ISOCARP can provide to new members.
  - Possible suggestions to achieve this tasks:
    - Develop a document or introduction material that concisely outlines the benefits associated with an ISOCARP membership.
    - Add to the webpage a link to on-going and/or recent projects completed by members. Although the congress provides an excellent platform to present projects pertaining to a selected theme, there are a wide range of projects that encompass a variety of topics or even the continuation of those projects presented at the congress that our members could have access to. Such a website could prove to be a relevant and beneficial research resource.

### **Janine Marin, ISOCARP Representative to UNESCO**

#### **Regarding the Strategic Focus: Knowledge for Cities**

##### **• Poverty is an urban issue:**

Working on the topic of Human Rights in the City, we can see that, when ISOCARP planners work to set up a vision for a better quality of life in any city, we see, first the implementation, without telling it, of a range of Human Rights and, by the way, a better quality of life for more people what means fighting against poverty. In addition, we can measure the importance of such an issue, when we know that world-wide urban population overpasses 50%.

##### **The challenges present in turn a series of opportunity to us**

##### **• Planning must be holistic, transversal and dynamic**

In the UNESCO vision, any matter concerning human kind has to be holistic, since human beings are “transversal”; but to think transversal without going on to action remains philosophy, and, even if it is good philosophy, people cannot have only philosophy as food, life skills and shelters. Dynamic action to be useful for people has of course to be dynamic, before it is too much late.

##### **UPAT**

An UPAT, which is a concrete link between a City, ISOCARP, University, people and decision makers in the City, is the best way to act in accordance those who live the city and its bigger and bigger challenges.

But, I am afraid that UPATs are not very well known within the NGOs Community, at least within the UNESCO-NGOs one. For the celebration of “UNESCO at 60”, I wanted to present ISOCARP evolution towards the Human Rights, in accordance of the evolution of the concept of Human Rights. And I realized that it will be through the experiment of an UPAT I could be credible. At the end of the workshop, I was really surprise to see a circle of participants around me to congratulate ISOCARP on such an important action.

## **ISOCARP Visibility**

Linking fighting against all kinds of poverty – and not only financial poverty – and implementation of UPATs, will be a good way to increase ISOCARP visibility, since a lot of kinds of people are concerned by the matter, even if it is only for a week. In addition we can say that the follow up of the proposed vision by the team is of a basic importance. I was very glad to receive the information on the matter of UPAT Zurich Limmat Valley, last month and see that the process was going on.

It is why I appreciated a lot the proposal “to find new ways to promote a UPAT” and the ISOCARP Initiative for Haïti.

To say it in a few words, acting for a better quality of life in urban areas, linked with the implementation of UPATs, as they are set up, is from the international to the local level, one of the best ways for ISOCARP visibility.

## **Mostafa Meziane, Morocco**

**About Knowledge as a key role in developing the profession** (pages 3;5 of the Minutes of the Bureau Meeting that was held in Porto on 18 October 2009).

### **The problem of building a basis of knowledge, in the profession of town planner's**

In the developed countries, town planning still not unified under the same rationalistic approach as it is in science disciplines: While some see town planning as a grouping of high office towers laying at the center of the city and dream to compete with other cities for their beauty and esthetic charm; others using the sociological and political analysis, see town planning as a territory of struggle between social classes. Whatever the opinion is, the losers are town planners themselves; neither are they coming from the same formation, nor have they the same opinion; while some comes from Vincennes, others are demographers, geographers or economist or architect so that everybody might be town planner; No law governing the profession, no systematic procedures and no general principles. Functionalist and utilitarian, the profession of town planning has oscillated from sanitary prevention attached to health ministry to roads scheduling and alignment. If Surely, it is the polyvalence of the profession that suggests a multidisciplinary formation and intervention, many examples shows that their members succeeded better than town planners despite similar situation: the formation in business schools involves many disciplines such as economy, sociology, geography as well as history or politic, but business specialists speaks the same language; It is because they unified their opinion, and therefore their force as well as their social or professional status, by giving their formation a rationalistic basis. No profession that is not rationalistic can spread all over the world; no language that is not a language of conviction can make adepts among politics, media and human opinion. Climatologists are gaining the sympathy of anyone because the subject is universal at the moment of the climate change and the way they are analyzing it is convincing. Besides Organizations of business specialist or climatologists are quite unique while town planners have ISOCARP, INTA, IUA, IFHP and many others in France and elsewhere. If this appears as a strategy, developed by town planners to emerge into an international knowledge and expertise, its real meaning still consists into conquering new markets.

But what are the means for conquering international markets and, is this action alone bearing fruits to its members without developing the intellectual basis of the profession? Is there a real convergence in the profession all over the world? Is town planning a real way of bringing happiness to society by imagining new form of cities? Aren't we a little utopian when thinking that we do our own job, not the one of politics? David Harvey put it this way: “Harold Wilson spoke of "latest technology", where it was thought that the techniques of urban and regional planning will constitute a lever for social progress and for the entire population” [1]. Of course Wilson was wrong, as Margaret Thatcher was, as Reagan and Bush were; Ultraliberals sees in town planning a way to accompany virtual economy, a way in which centers of towns are densified with towers of commercial building, where the land prices fly beyond imaginary levels and where the middle classes are pushed out of the city.

The irrationality of our own profession lay in the fact that we believe that by changing space we may change society, even if we can't explain how this change would take place and how the changes in space would affect the changes in society. Besides, if this postulate is true, then the profession of town planning is rather the result of a massive intervention, an exogenous procedure similar in all respects to a political and dogmatic action, not to a scientific approach. That's why I am afraid to say that the job of town planning has landed on the hands of politics; that many countries will form many town planners who have no specialization at all except speculation; and I am afraid to say that it is a profession that is decreasing in power and consideration. And beyond all, I am afraid to say that town planners themselves don't want to appear more drastic and more rigorist because they need the politics they work with.

As far as we don't change this postulate into its opposite, into the one where the society, making progress in several conceptual spaces, makes necessarily the same progress in geometric space, and for this reason, it should be just guided and accompanied not forced in a political and pragmatic manner; as far as this happens, I am afraid we can't build a basis of knowledge in the profession, independent from that of the politics, am afraid, town planners will continue to defend esthetics instead of human development. If it is sure that the GDP is correlated to the size of cities, the same GDP should be diminished by taking into account, social inequalities, negative externalities and carbon emissions. Town planners are following the principle of Bentham where progress is defined as the arithmetic result between losers and winners [2], whatever is the winner's morality which most of time as Smith put it, is pernicious [3].

In the developing countries, architects and administration have resolved this dilemma in a dramatic, simple and realistic manner; it became a way to earn enormous amounts of money through corruption; there is no specialization to take into account, no demography, no politics, no geography, no landscape, no urban development but only corruption and easy wealth. Now that town planning has no rationalistic basis, it becomes also a dirty profession.

When I first applied for a membership with ISOCARP, I was following two goals: First I dreamed of an intellectual arena in which it might be possible for constructing a solid basis of the profession: for example at the moment where climate change appears to be an universal subject, that poses the crucial question of solidarity and the unity of humanity, many town planners still dream of urban metropolization as a way for economic growth, which is contradictory to the sense of decreasing the opulence, consumerism and the extravagance; Not only we probably might have seized this opportunity more than ever to engage a real debate, but apparently town planners seems to act out of the international scene. As second example, what is the ISOCARP's reaction and position in the phenomena of housing bubble? What is its reaction toward the administration principle's that stop building outside cities and which leads to increased demand and reduced supply inside cities. Aren't the government policies responsible of the housing bubble? What is the ISOCARP's reaction in the subprime crisis? Isn't it due to the collapse of housing policies associated to the emergence of virtual economy?

**The necessity of defending town planners and their profession especially in developing countries, the necessity of defending the rights for the population to live decently.**

My second goal was aiming to be protected by an international organization, whom power I supposed, would have been beyond that of the states; an organization that should moralize the public administration, especially in developing countries, by encouraging the virtues of merit and struggling against corruption. We are living in developing countries, a special situation in which the scale of values has been inverted, where the people who are honest are jailed and fought for their morality; and where those dishonest are gratified and rewarded. Therefore, we need to be protected and defended by an international organization that should have the power to interfere on the states in order to defend its members along with the aim of social equity.

Sure, ISOCARP is not a union, but it can be a strong NGO; what would happen, to an international organization that does not speak the language of rationality and at the same time does a little in defending its members, and does nothing for the social equity and civil society in its fundamental rights to live decently? I am afraid, it can't progress. The humanity required to defend members, derives from the same humanity that should be applied to cities in order to build a society of solidarity; ISOCARP have to choose between two goals if it has to stand universal: at least humanity or rationality and the best would be both of them. Basing all the activities of ISOCARP on selling participation to congresses that are hold far and expensive, where the subject is defined in advance by the head office not by regional members, where the theoretical approaches and studies are eliminated to the benefit of practical and pragmatic projects, where members of developing countries who have not enough work, and can't probably feed their family, can't attend the congress, seems not to be an approach aimed to raise the organization to an international level. I read in your report that many African and Asian joined ISOCARP; you can be sure that the majority among them did, in order to feel protected before going far in defending their society.

**About effectiveness of ISOCARP by its number**

It seems that someone have decided that the more ISOCARP is spreading like a political party, the more it gains in effectiveness. I am afraid it won't work; it is necessary but not enough; it is better to have a homogenous group with a high voice than a tumultuous one with a small voice. What is necessary first is having a good project to defend, and second having a strategy for this purpose. Once the cause is clear, human, honest and rational, once the subject is aiming to change a situation of injustice and once its knowledge basis is tangible and understandable, members will flock from all sides and subsidies also.

### **About National Delegations, proposals for a new way**

If the role in defending the profession all together with defending the civil society, is assigned to National Delegation am afraid, giving the prevailing corruption in town planning's field at least in developing countries, that these delegations won't be able to do their work in conformity with morality and positive values. On the other hand, national delegations must at least be numerous enough and must defend the same values in order to constitute a weight and a power cons. I have contacted the president of the actual Moroccan association of town planning; I suggested unifying our forces in order to make changes in the authority's position. The president was aware of the necessity of change, but was afraid to take the smallest action!

Besides, I have never been contacted by any member of the national delegation, not a phone, not an email, just silence, absolute silence. Which National Delegations you are talking about when they are two persons or tree not even talking one to another?

All this raise the question, who is ISOCARP? Does ISOCARP have a project for its members? Is ISOCARP an NGO using its conscience and its Knowledge to balancing social inequalities? Are National Delegations themselves NGO having the same project and defending the same ideal? Or are they just individual members not supposed to carry any social project?

The best way that would make ISOCARP survive, is to do its duty as an NGO, in defending the social justice in housing, in struggling against corrupt administration, in constructing a basis of knowledge, in bringing profound thought to the manner that is governing our profession unconsciously or deliberately.

### **About spam**

When I first registered as IOCARP member, I received a lot of Emails which intended to sell me participation to some congresses. I guess that ISOCARP shared the list of its member's Emails with some of its institutional colleagues; and I do not mind even if this requires an authorization and at least information. But once I received a good Email (not from ISOCARP, but from an unknown author) which accused me ironically that I wanted to be invited to congresses without paying a cent! The timing coincided with the holding of the first congress just after my registration. I felt frustrated because first it's not true, and second it seems impolite and arrogant and must come from someone who lacks education. I know that Holland is experiencing a serious problem of racism, but this must stay inside its boundaries; if racism is exported to the foreigners wherever they are, then I have to question myself about the meaning of membership I put myself in?

If you think that membership's significance is that members should carry their brain and their thoughts to ISOCARP, then I am with you and we will probably do a long way together. If you think that they should just be silent and follow, just obey or being insulted, am afraid I can't go far.

I hope that I gave you my sincere opinion as you have requested in your last Email.

### **Mthembeni Mkhize, South Africa**

1. National Associations to work together with NDs;
2. Activities of the above to be communicated to the EXCO regularly and be made part of the ISOCARP's News;
3. Internationally travelling members to be encouraged to make time to have at least coffee shops meetings with members of their destination countries.

### **Simon Moussalli, Lebanon**

With the little experience I personally have with BM meetings, the points that attracted my attention were the following:

1. Collaboration with INTA and IFHP - It is regrettable that some attendants of this BM meeting objected to this initiative taken by General Secretary and Exco, and the achievement of a subsequent MOU. Their objections were on the grounds that ISOCARP Membership at large were not consulted before hand. On the contrary, I personally consider that such initiatives should be encouraged and strongly supported since they increase ISOCARP networking and widen the scope of collaboration with other similar NGOs.
2. Partnership and Membership – On the same line of thought, partnership with other institutions having similar goals than ISOCARP should be encouraged. In turn, partnership will promote membership and bring income to ISOCARP to

reach the critical mass objective of 1000 members. In this respect, the case of Abu-Dhabi is significant: the initiative taken in this country accounted for 31% of membership from Middle East. However, this percentage almost due to Abu-Dhabi alone does not represent the true picture since membership from other countries in this part of the world remains unsatisfactory not to say insignificant.

### **Shi Nan, China**

Thank you Pablo, excellent job, but I am more concerned about:

- How to maintain the professionalism and the academic spirits of ISOCARP? How to balance the possible interests conflict between "big" institutions and individuals?
- Any privilege/rights as an ISOCARP member can enjoy to join the INTA and IFHP's shared/own activities?

Please find attached meeting note by Pablo and me on behalf of ISOCARP and UPSC on 22 Nov. 2009.

1. UPSC received during ISOCARP's Porto congress, October 2009, a draft agreement describing the terms of reference for the ISOCARP-UPSC liaison office in Beijing. The terms in the draft are acceptable for UPSC. UPSC is in the process of securing endorsement from the relevant authorities of the central government. These are necessary for the office to commence activities. UPSC will notify ISOCARP of the expected completion of the administrative endorsement and approval process.
2. UPSC notes that the office designation in Chinese language will be "Project Office" rather than "Liaison Office", in order to facilitate administrative endorsement and approval processes. The designation of "Liaison Office" will be maintained in the English version of the agreement. This change does not imply variations in any of the terms of the agreement.
3. UPSC will continue promoting ISOCARP in China by publishing ISOCARP news in UPSC's Journal CITY PLANNING REVIEW and on its official website [www.planning.org.cn](http://www.planning.org.cn).
4. UPSC will support its members to apply ISOACRP-UPSC joint membership.
5. Both organisations agree to prepare a calendar of shared activities for the year 2010 that can take place simultaneously to the administrative endorsement and approval processes. Activities include:
  - ISOCARP and UPSC delegates will hold an institutional meeting on occasion of WUF 5 in Rio, in March.
  - ISOCARP will allot a session for UPSC within its 2010 Congress, in Nairobi, September 2010. UPSC can organise the content of the slot so that the audience can learn about the activities of UPSC, the planning agenda in China and best practices of urban and regional planning relevant to the congress' theme. In principle, the slot will be of one hour. ISOCARP and the Nairobi local organising committee will do its best to provide English-Chinese simultaneous translation.
  - Reciprocally, UPSC will allot a session for ISOCARP within its 2010 Congress, in Chongqing, in September 2010. ISOCARP will introduce its activities and cases of international best practices relevant to the congress theme.
  - ISOCARP will invite UPSC to contribute to the World Planning Day 2010 event, which is tentatively to be held in Wuhan.
6. UPSC will seek any possible opportunity to host a ISOCARP UPAT project in China.
7. ISOCARP and UPSC will seek opportunities to have a common presence during the Shanghai 2010 EXPO

### **Mairura Omwenga, Kenya**

1. As Kenya ND, we think the efforts by ISOCARP to forge closer network links with other organisations be supported.
2. That efforts to have ISOCARP open regional offices in all regions of the world is good idea.
3. Special thanks to SG, EXCOM and GA for accepting to open the Africa region office in Nairobi. This is the way to make ISOCARP strong and leader in world development agenda.
4. Special thanks to EXCOM accepting to have 46th ISOCARP Congress in Nairobi. We extend special welcome to EXCOM.
5. To the President, we look forward to receiving him in Nairobi.

### **Peter Robinson, South Africa**

In one of our recent discussions in Porto, you made the point of making the ISOCARP Congress a Pan-African event. There is an opportunity in that the SA Planning Institute will be holding its Plan Africa 2010 Conference in Durban in the week before ISOCARP's Congress in Nairobi. This could afford members the chance to attend both and combine with

some travel. The SAPI Conference poster is attached. More information can be obtained from the chair of the organizing committee, Peter Gilmore (tel + 27 83 3788737 e-mail: gilmorep@durban.gov.za)

### **Judith Ryser, United Kingdom**

#### *About democratic and interactive communication*

Instead of having two face-to-face Bureau meetings per year suggested by Khalid El Adli, which is desirable but not realistic, I proposed to set up a specific page on the members' area which enables ALL ISOCARP members to participate in shaping the future of the ISOCARP structure, management, etc in an ongoing mode. I made this very point at the outset of the Bureau meeting when I presented our difficulty in filling even the five places on the National Delegation. For example, such a page with a separate tag would enable those who respond to the minutes to contribute their views directly for all members to see, without restricting feedback to the exco. Also details, such as which countries did not hold national delegation elections should be shown there.

A similar point I made about a more user friendly members' list is omitted. Accessible by a dedicated tag the members list should make it easy for members to communicate with each other directly. It should give members the possibility to select the information they wish to put in the public domain while making more information available to members only on the members area. An overview of the members should figure as a complete list classified by country, besides alphabetic access by country or by name. Access by speciality of members should also be included in the search thesaurus. All these are standard features.

The point I made about democratic deficit and lack of transparency shared by ISOCARP members in those countries which have made an effort to recruit a lot of members but who then do not have one member one vote rights, has not been mentioned in the minutes. This aspect is a reason for members' passivity which is detrimental to a member based society. The argument that a single country could swamp ISOCARP is unproven and unlikely while participation open to all members would enable ISOCARP to harness the expertise of all its members better by mobilising all voluntary resources and thereby improving the visibility of the society.

It is a recurrent ISOCARP problem that *substantive* discussions do not take place at the bureau meetings as time is taken up by administrative matters which could be dealt with more expediently without wasting precious face to face time. As usual, the substantive discussion was postponed to the AGM but as the last item, despite requests that it should figure at the beginning. Everybody started to leave instead of hearing the same administrative presentations sometimes for the third time. Surely, the budget, the GS report, etc could be posted on the members' area shortly before the congress for ALL members to see and comment upon, so that informed decisions could be taken in which ALL members should have a participation right. In the digital age this does not present insurmountable problems.

I welcome the initiative to provide more information on a regular basis between congresses.

Lack of debate about an important constitutional matter to cooperate differently with INTA and IFHP was particularly regrettable. Pointing to the fact that the proposal had been posted on the ISOCARP website without alerting the membership did not enhance democratic credibility. Voting at the end of the day by simple majority will not make such a decision more palatable to those who would have liked to examine consequences and alternatives.

Some remarks are recurrent, albeit without ensuing action. An important example is the inappropriate seating arrangement for 'horizontal' exchanges and decision making. Even universities have rooms with other than stepped 'them and us' configurations.

#### *Publications*

Concerning the sale of articles, etc on-line. It should have been mentioned that such contributions are offered free by authors who preserve the moral right over their work. They may be less forthcoming to make contributions for free without any royalties if their work is sold, moreover without their explicit consent and without clear conditions. These are essential choices which require a proper debate among members on an ISOCARP publication strategy. In my experience authors are willing to offer their work and put it in the public domain, even to enhance ISOCARP, but would stop short of commercialisation. The NGO status of ISOCARP is only one albeit important restrictive aspect.

### **Claudio Sainz, Mexico**

On the request made for members to provide feedback and ideas concerning the minutes of the bureau meeting Porto, Oct.18.09 I would like to provide three comments:

1. It is good to know this information, this give to us a clearer idea of what is ISOCARP and what is going on. As a result broader but better organized participation can be achieved
2. Knowledge for cities can be the major focus over the next years, it is a path for everyone, old and young planners, practicing and academic professionals, governmental or entrepreneurial initiatives, and gives a chance to work with every approach possible.
3. Work to organize national delegations better and having local meetings could help to arrive to yearly congresses with better proposals, also taking the conclusions of every meeting into action to the local level.

### **Aleksandra Stupar, Serbia**

- After the BM 09 the communication between EXCO and ND/members has been significantly intensified and improved. However, some members think that the previous procedure (i.e. communication path defined by the management levels) is more efficient and well structured;
- The visibility of the EXCO members should be increased in all events supported by ISOCARP (which was not always the case) - in spite of the evident financial limitations;
- The list of new partners and planned activities looks encouraging and we hope that all members will have an opportunity to actively participate in some of the proposed events and projects;
- The collaboration with INTA and IFHP could open a number of opportunities, but some of our members think that the genuine principles and values of ISOCARP could be eroded. Therefore, we hope that the recognizable identity of ISOCARP will be protected and some new qualities will be added. The best way, in our opinion, is to include all members in the future collaboration (for ex. providing the same fee/registration status for all members of these 3 organisations in the following ISOCARP/INTA/IFHP conferences, encouraging mutual projects on all levels - workshops, round tables, guest lectures, 'advanced' UPATs....);
- We support the idea that the congress CD Rom should have an ISBN number (that could also include peer review, if necessary).

### **Francisco J. de la Vega Aragón, México**

Unfortunately, I didn't participate in the ISOCARP Congress in Porto, nevertheless, I agree with the wish to be more and better informed about the activities and discussions going on inside the ISOCARP Executive Committee and our Society.

### **José Maria Yagüe Mata, Spain**

En la reunión que tuvimos este fin de semana en Teruel que, como sabes, quedó inscrita en una jornada sobre urbanismo en la que intervenimos varios de nosotros en el Colegio de arquitectos, con presencia de Ayuntamiento, quedamos en hablar por la tarde sobre la marcha de la delegación.

La sensación es que existe cierta desconexión entre EXCO y las delegaciones nacionales, pero este tema evidentemente tiene una doble dirección.

Entonamos nuestro "mea culpa" y decidimos comenzar acciones en relación a varios frentes. El primero, el tener un espacio común de interés y así trabajar en un tema concreto de forma conjunta que se pueda debatir en los próximos congresos, creando a ser posible, una corriente de opinión. Ya hemos comenzado a trabajar y, de momento, somos 6 las personas implicadas, no s hemos propuesto hasta Abril para tener una primera puesta en común.

En otro sentido y, más relacionado con la "visibilidad" de la asociación, pensamos en dar contenido al día del urbanismo con un acto sencillo pero de relevancia y con repercusión en medios. Así mismos vamos a iniciar varios contactos con las principales asociaciones de urbanistas a nivel nacional, al menos, en un principio para conocernos. En este sentido, a la reunión, acudió un posible nuevo miembro que preside regionalmente una de ellas.

**Bureau Meeting**  
**Sunday, 18 October 2009**  
**10.00 – 13.00 hrs**

Name	Country	Bureau Member Yes or No
1 Ir. A. ERONAT	U. A. E	Yes
2 Ian Rychy	Australia	No ND
3 Jeremy Jenkins	"	Yes
4 Jim COLEMAN	" "	V.P.
5 Shri Nam	CHINA	Yes
6 Harry Storch	Germany	ND
7 KHAUD Z. EL ADLI	EGYPT	ND
8 PETER ROBINSON	SOUTH AFRICA	YES
9 Elias BERIATOS	Greece	Yes
10 JOSE MARIA YAGUE	Spain	Yes
11 Awad el Kaim Abdel Kaim	Sudan	Yes
12 FERNANDO M. BRAUNÃO ALVES	PORTUGAL	ND.
13 Marilena PAPAGEORGIOU	GREECE	D.B.M.
14 PIOTR LORENS	POLAND	YES
15 Fernando Greene	Mexico	Yes LAST TIME
16 Fernanda Magalhães	Brazil	YES
17 Rachid OUZZANI	Morocco	YES
18 MAURORA OMWENGA	KENYA	YES
19 Mary Kimani	KENYA	YES
20 IRENE KENO	KENYA	YES
21 Lorraine Gonzales	USA	YES
22		
23		
24		



# Bureau Meeting

## Sunday, 18 October 2009

### 10.00 – 13.00 hrs

Name	Country	Bureau Member Yes or No
25 PACO PEREZ	MEX	VP
26 ILIANA MIGNAQUI	ARGENTINA	Yes
27 SIMON G. MOUSSALLI	LEBANON	YES.
28 STUPAR ALEXANDRA	SERBIA	YES
29 ANTONIA CORNARO	SWITZERLAND	YES
30 CHRIS BOSSOP	UK	VP
31 von Klettenberg	Germany	Yes
32 Van den Broeck J et	Belgium	Yes
33 Martin Jubbels	Netherlands	Yes
34 bert smolders	netherlands	no.
35 Didier Vanuyst	Germany	Yes
36 ULA HOFER	GERMANY	YES
37 Bruno clerbay	Belgium proxy to Laente	YES
38 Pim Laente	Belgium	YES
39 MANFRED SCHRENK	AUSTRIA	YES
40 PABLO VAGGIONE	SPAIN	YES
41 Samuel Foucaud	Mexico	Yes.
42 ZETKUP ENLIL	TURKEY	VP
43 Dirk Engelke	Germany	VA
44 Melith Ryser	UK	y HB
45		
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47		
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