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Report on activities 2013 and 2014

1. Introduction

First of all I would like to thank for the opportunity to contribute to the Society as a VP Congresses

PREAMBLE

The focus of Technical Cooperation/ Project activities over the last year has been on consolidating ISOCARP's partnerships with various international actors, leading to income-generating projects for the Society. A major breakthrough in this was achieved with the signing of a Technical Cooperation Agreement with UN-HABITAT. Another important agreement was also concluded with ITACUS. Updates on these two key activities are provided below.

REPORT

Partnership with UN-HABITAT

1. **Technical cooperation Agreement:** In April 2013, ISOCARP and UN-HABITAT signed a technical cooperation agreement for USD 130,000 for rapid and flexible deployment of planners in the field, upon request from clients/partners or in-country UN-HABITAT staff. An assistant is on board in the Secretariat and is working on developing the roster of planners. In December 2013 we received a request for deployment of two urban planners with experience in low-emission development (land use/ transport sectors) to Recife, Brazil and Nagpur, India. The duration of these assignments will be between 2-4 weeks each, and they will be completed by mid-2014. Candidates were shortlisted for these assignments and UN-HABITAT has made a preliminary selection, which is being discussed with the respective cities. We have also sent several reminders to members to register themselves on the roster if they wish to be considered for UN-HABITAT projects. Expertise is being requested in two new thematic areas – transport planning and building regulations.
2. **Participation in Expert Group on International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning:** ISOCARP nominated four of its own members and a fifth planner from one of our partner organisations – the Commonwealth Association of Planners – to participate in this activity. Our nominations were accepted by UN-HABITAT and the first Expert Group Meeting held in Paris in October 2013. The meeting witnessed excellent participation from the ISOCARP representatives. A draft version of the International Guidelines was subsequently circulated and the Expert Group members provided their feedback. A second draft is expected by early March, and will be shared with all ISOCARP members for their comments.
3. **World Urban Forum, Medellin, Colombia, April 2014:** The preparations for WUF 7 in Medellin are well underway. ISOCARP has once again been invited to moderate the Dialogue on Planning. We will also organize one Networking Event, and we have a space in the Exhibition, just as was done in Naples with considerable success. The widest spectrum of members will be invited and

encouraged to participate in ISOCARP's activities in WUF, or indeed, involve ISOCARP in their own planned activities.

Partnership with ITACUS

1. ***Case studies on underground space planning:*** The first activity under the MoU signed between the ISOCARP and ITACUS was the development of case studies on underground space planning. As agreed with ITACUS, these case studies are being undertaken by ISOCARP members. Euro 20,000 has been promised by ITACUS for this activity, of which Euro 2,000 will be paid to each author/ team of authors for case study development, and Euro 10,000 used for publication (electronic/ print form). Development of five case studies now progressing – draft versions of almost all case studies have been received by ISOCARP and ITACUS for review.

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