Urban Transformations - Cities and Water

Congress Conclusions

Amos Brandeis
General Rapporteur
And Congress Team
Main Conclusion

IT IS WORTH BEING IN GDYNIA
### 50th ISOCARP International Planning Congress Gdynia

#### Preliminary Program

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<td>Time</td>
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<td>Activity</td>
<td>Registration all day</td>
<td>Coffee</td>
<td>Keynote Speeches</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>ISOCARP Bureau meeting</td>
<td>Welcome reception</td>
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<td>Introduction of the Congress Topics</td>
<td>Coffee</td>
<td>Olgierd Dzikowski (Poland)</td>
<td>Presentations in 6 Parallel Sessions</td>
<td>ISOCARP Activities</td>
<td>Tour of Gdansk (booking necessary)</td>
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<td>Young Planners Projects</td>
<td>Keynote Speeches in 6 Parallel Sessions</td>
<td>Francesco Bandarin (Italy)</td>
<td>ISOCARP Activities</td>
<td>Happy Hour</td>
<td>(YPPs, UPATs, Projects)</td>
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<td>Welcome Speeches</td>
<td>Session by urban API Project</td>
<td>Meera Mehta (India)</td>
<td>ISOCARP Activities</td>
<td>Launch of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations</td>
<td>Special Session</td>
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<td>Waterfront Planning Marathon</td>
<td>Presentations in 6 Parallel Sessions</td>
<td>Keynote Speeches</td>
<td>Acknowledgement of ISOCARP founders &amp; former Presidents</td>
<td>Conference Gala</td>
<td>Dinner and Awards</td>
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<td>Janusz Zbik (Poland)</td>
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**Post Congress Tours**

- Conclusions by Congress Team
- 2015 Congress Closing

**Themes**

- Plenary Sessions
- Parallel Sessions
- Tours
- Other activities

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**Very rich and diverse congress program**
Happy Tour of Gdynia - 22.9.14
Tour of the waterfront of Gdynia
Opening Plenary Session - 23.9.14
Music...
Congress team presentation
Gdynia YPP workshop presentation
Keynote Presentations

Minister Olgierd Dziekonski gave an overview of the fascinating recent urban transformations in Poland.

Francesco Bandarin analyzed and demonstrated how strongly heritage and water issues are linked together in urbanity.

Meera Mehta presented the crucial relationships between water issues, urban life, and the economy.
Presentations of the city of Gdynia

Marek Stepa
Marek Karzynski
Robert Hirsch
Paulina Szewczyk
Food, Beer, and wine...

Gdynia municipality hospitality
Waterfront Planning Marathon - 24.9.14

Format of the Marathon

- Each participant will present in 10 minutes sharply.
- When the bell rings, the next presentation starts.
- An international jury will evaluate and choose one or two participants for “The Best Waterfront Project Award”.
- The audience will choose “The Best Waterfront Oral Presentation”.
- These will be first announced at the Gala dinner of the congress and award certificates will be handed to the winners.
Waterfront Planning Marathon - 24.9.14

The winners will be announced at the Gala Dinner.
Parallel Sessions - Water was the main theme...
Parallel Sessions

Think Tank
Gdansk Tour
Awards for Excellence - 25.9.14

And the Winners are...
To be announced during the Gala Dinner
Track Keynotes

William Lau

Olivier Liemier
Launch of 50th Anniversary of ISOCARP
Keynotes - 26.9.14

Mr. Janusz Zbik - The Polish Urban Agenda

Professor Alex Krieger - Transformations Along Urban Waterfronts
Our Congress on the Media
Geographic distribution - Congress team, keynotes, authors, posters

38 countries
Congress tracks

The traditional, simple, open ended and partial overlapping method

Track 1: Urban Design, Landscape and Livable Cities
Track 2: Social Aspects, Collaborations and Governance
Track 3: Economic, Leisure and Tourism Aspects
Track 4: Water Management
Track 5: Environment, Ecosystem and Climate Change
Track 6: Ports, Transportation and Infrastructures
Congress Team Conclusions by Tracks

What are the challenges?
What did we learn?
What’s needed in the future?

Credit for the questions: Jeff Featherstone
Track 1: Urban Design, Landscape and Livable Cities

Guy PERRY, Hong Kong / Switzerland

WANG Hongyang, China
Challenges

• So diversified water-related P/D contexts. Standard therapy not working
• Not just site-relevant, but also city-wide, region-wide, country-wide & planet-wide relevant
• Continuously increasing comprehensiveness, a feature especially evident in water-related P/D. Elements to be integrated: nature & human; engineering, social and economic; growth, landscape, humanity, culture and heritage; interests/stakeholders; tools – plan, design, policy, society, market ...; strategies & so many details...
• Overrelying on Mega-projects and investment
• How to include more scientific methodology and tech?
• How to break the P/D paradigm, such as mega-project oriented, typical “modernity” like of vision, standard therapy oriented, underestimating large-scale relevance?
What We Learned

• Significance & complexity of water-related P/D underestimated;
• Confident but humble attitude towards our solutions will help to reduce problems in water-related P/D;
• Inclusiveness of people will help;
• “Diversity + synergies” in functions, objectives and tools, and concentrate on limited crucial development/spaces. Always try to identify and establish new synergies, e.g. Urban agro-industry projects;
• Combine (rather than bias) mega-, blueprint, strategic, government etc with delicate concerns, small actions, bottom-up possibilities etc.;
• Comprehensive analytical and determination system, such as DENVIS (Delta Envisioning Support System) & OUV(outstanding universal value);
• Include more scientific technology (e.g. wind-water simulation), without weakening social scientific methods (qualitative evaluation and planning);
• Research by design
What We Need

- More study and practice on INNOVATION for water-related P/D theory & methods. Encourage revolutionarily innovative thinking in both fundamental theory and practical solutions.
- BIG-DATA DATABASE of analytical elements and best practice (reference for inspiring conjecture of solutions)
- Boldly stick to the ancient planning philosophy of COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING despite the increasing complexity
- PEOPLE-CENTRIC: *THE SOLUTION*
Track 2: Social Aspects, Collaboration and Governance
Challenges

• Population growth and fast urbanization
• Unbalanced distribution of wealth and water resources leading to increased disparities
• Diversification of needs, interests and aspirations of individuals, communities and institutions
• Making politicians to acknowledge and act according to “community will”
• Better understanding and communication of planning concepts
What We Learned

- Community engagement can foster practical solutions to planning problems
- History and local cultures matter!
- Harmony between people, water and development leads to sustainable planning outcomes
- Urban design of waterfronts and water bodies needs to incorporate different types of uses
- Waterfronts and water bodies are continuously subject to change
- Water as part of “territorial capital” an “asset” as well as a “common good”
- Megaprojects that fail to incorporate the voices of the public have long term “risks”
What’s Needed

• Change of attitude and behaviors relating to water practices
• Protecting and preserving our water heritage as an appreciation of interdependencies of “water” (whether natural, community or cultural commons)
• Adapting ecosystems approach to competing water uses
• Integration of formal and informal mechanisms
• Flexibility and adaptability of planning tools and administrative structures
• Functional institutional water governance
• Continuous learning process for planners...
Track 3: Economic, Leisure and Tourism Aspects

Lorraine Gonzales
USA

Alexander Antonov
Russia
Challenges

• Development
  ▪ Large developments are reliant on public partnerships and funding.
  ▪ Define what replaces vacant industrial.
  ▪ A mix of development is necessary to establish a successful development/community.
  ▪ Existence of brownfields and floodplains.

• Finances
  ▪ Establish public/private partnerships to commit to a vision.
  ▪ Secure economic support to develop a vision beyond the planning stage.
  ▪ How do we quantify green/blue spaces?

• Historic
  ▪ Preserve existing historic structures or established developments to transform a waterfront.
What We Learned

• Successful developments along water fronts include multiple uses: business activity, housing, public spaces, green zones and nature areas: a balance is necessary.
• Water is a catalyst/resource used to complement land uses and infrastructures along waterfronts.
• Floodplains, storm water infrastructure, water pollution, etc. should be addressed during waterfront redevelopment projects.
• The size of the water source dictates the scale of the development.
What’s Needed

• Development
  • Engage the public in the planning process to ensure support of the development.
  • Implement smaller elements of the project to keep the public and private entities engaged.
  • Establish connections to waterfronts for public use.
  • Proper public (green) spaces on the waterfront attract private investment (especially for shrinking cities).

• Finances
  • Collaboration & Coordination to develop partnerships (Stakeholders, Government agencies, and Public).
  • Plan to decrease economic disparity among economic levels.

• Historic
  • Strive to preserve historic culture and identity of the area.
Track 4: Water Management
Challenges

• Lack of environmental awareness generates problem recognition blindness
• Government is only aware of environmental disasters and then it is too late
• Planning does not always incorporate water management issues:
  - Water pollution - water supply
  - Water scarcity - loss of wetlands
  - Water treatment - loss of water front heritage
  - Flood prone plains - climate change effects
  - Water as a source of energy - water sources protection
What We Learned

• Water is a threat and a potential.
• We can still learn from previous, even ancient water system constructions that provides linkages between cities, historical and natural landscapes and people.
• We cannot fool mother nature, adapting and working with her we can achieve better livelihoods.
• It is important to have adaptive and performance-based approaches in water management.
• A water paradox: contaminated water goes into the sea and we desalinate water from the sea.
• Society no longer has the luxury of water resources, careful usage, re usage must not be an alternative but a priority
What’s Needed

• Shift from engineering projects using water as a resource towards approaches using water as a main asset of identity.
• Integrated water management: urban design, engineering and planning frameworks meeting the community needs.
• It is wise to have urban – regional and even cross border multi functional approaches.
• Spatial planning should respond to water related scientific evidences: implementation must follow knowledge so as to achieve long term effective and efficient results.
• And of course, a water-aware community, receptive politicians and government officials.
Challenges

• Environmental strategies and planning tools have to meet global responsibility

• Advantages have to be reached for citizens, politicians and stakeholders alike

• Conflict reduction is demanded specially between economic expectations and environmental necessities
What we Learned

• Governments are not the authority to produce longterm visions
• Future urban developments should integrate Ecosystem Services
• Urban waterfronts are globally undergoing restoration to gain accessibility, recreation and aesthetic values
What’s Needed

• Projects have to undergo real participation in all stages, which have to be guided by professional mediation to produce more acceptance.

• Strategies and planning projects for risk and hazard reduction are crucial for countries threatened by effects of climate change.

• Provision and balanced distribution system of even small, green open spaces will bring the most heat reducing effect for dense urban cities.
Track 6: Ports, Transportation and Infrastructures

Martina Juvara
UK

Giovanni Sergi
Italy

Abdelwehab Alwehab
Iraq
Challenges

• Modern ports are globalised strategic enterprises in fast growth and continuous transformation - land demands are massive and erratic therefore hard to reconcile with town planning

• Public-Public cooperation is difficult
  Public – Port Authority – Global Shipping Stream Businesses cooperation possible at all???

• Ports – unlike other major transport infrastructure – have limited strategic planning even if they involve massive long term land infrastructure

• Cities are hungry for land and very hungry for waterfront aspect…. A natural source of conflict all over the world

  The port terminal does not really end..
  But the city has borders and maybe a carrying capacity
What We Learned

- Modern ports are open systems of water and in-land infrastructures
- Ancient ports were open systems of water and in-land infrastructures ... only on a different and more human scale
- City port industry and infrastructure are interconnected... but compete instead of collaborating even at local scale
- Planning instruments are often fragmented and obsolete and slow
- ‘Classic’ planning systems (morphological analysis, infrastructure planning, engagement etc) are useful, and valid, but not recognised for dealing with active ports
- Interventions and management instruments exist to facilitate urban cohabitation between ports industry infrastructure and city
- Complexity / Time / Economic crises are friends f regeneration... but enemies of ports
- Sustainable and responsive transport planning (cycling and public transport) maybe be small scale but has very important role to play
What's Needed

• Strategic framework for port development (national / inter-national) is essential for an efficient land response

• Understanding employment impacts of waterfront regeneration in all and every case! And aspiring for employment / residential / well-being balance in port cities and former port cities

• Common language between port authorities and planners (national to local) is urgently needed

• Cultural identity of port cities should be better understood in structural terms because it is essential to people

• City-regions => Port systems
Main Conclusions

• Congress theme is relevant to all planners and all regions

• Crucial both in areas blessed with sustainable water resources, and in areas which suffer from severe water shortage or floods

• Cities and water issues are: global, but also local cross-border and cross-region multilevel and multiscale comprehensive, inter and trans-disciplinary very complicated and challenging
Cities and water - a huge variety of themes

Planning an urban project in relation to water issues is like solving the Rubik’s Cube:

- Complicated
- 3d
- All disciplines
- All scales
- One wrong move...

Cities and water issues require: leadership & collaborations
Urban Waterfronts - “Urban Celebrations”

The place in the city for the people to meet and enjoy. A huge urban asset
No planning prescriptions

Needed: Creativity, Innovation, Comprehensiveness, Sense of Place, Patience
Main Conclusions

• There are many challenges involved in transforming urban waterfronts, but one must approach the task with great optimism.

• Historically our “production yards”, they are today in the process of becoming our civic front yards.

Alex Krieger
Main Conclusions

Conclusions

- Riverfront as unique regional asset
- Riverfront as amenity for all
- Riverfront as a beneficiary of vacant land

Who are you?
Main Conclusions

We had Real Dialogues...
Main Conclusions

• We discussed plans, projects, case studies, researches, evaluations, theories and methodologies. Not all of them mature

• Blended across different topics and demonstrated how comprehensive, complex and fascinating planning is as a bridge between theory and practice.
Main Conclusions

• We have learned much from each other: awareness and sensitivity, knowledge, knowhow and tools.

• Hopefully the congress provided us with passion to continue facing these challenges in our daily professional life.

• The young generation was very much involved and proved remarkable creativity and passion for a better world.

• The congress proved again: Planning can make a difference!
Thank you to Gdynia - the ideal location
Thank you LOC Headed by Marek Stepánek
Thank You Milica, Didier, Slawek, Piotr & Guy
Thank You to the Wonderful Congress Team

Nageeb Elhoweris, Sudan
Brigitte Schmelzer, Germany
Guy PERRY, Hong Kong / Switzerland
WANG Hongyang, China
Martina Juvara, UK
Giovanni Sergi, Italy
Abdelwehab Alwehab, Iraq
Marcela Villa Luna, Peru
Zeynep Gunay, Turkey
Lorraine Gonzales, USA
Alexander Antonov, Russia
Olusola Olufemi, Canada
Gabriel Pascariu, Romania
Thank you to the technical team and volunteers
Thank you to the amazing ISOCARP team

Working hard...

Monica  Gaby  Elaine
And above all thank you to Gaby

But also having fun together...
General Rapporteur - Happy before and after...

Thank you for your trust, support and patience

Jeff - 2013

Me - 2014

Judith - 2015
See you in 2015!

Nageeb Elhoweris, Sudan
Brigitte Schmelzer, Germany
Guy PERRY, Hong Kong / Switzerland
WANG Hongyang, China
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